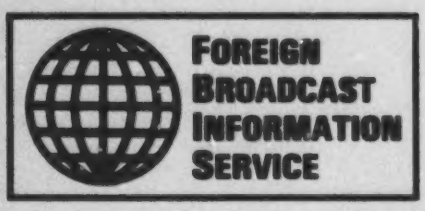

Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Near East & South Asia

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CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Officials Submit Report on Yemen *[MENA]* 1

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Receives 'Urgent' Message From Yeltsin *[Tunis Radio]* 1
Qaddumi Welcomes Russian Initiative for Conference *[MENA]* 1
PLO Taking Hebron Statements 'Very Seriously' *[AL-ASWAQ 8 Mar]* 1
Palestinian Committees Investigate Hebron Massacre *[HA'ARETZ 9 Mar]* 2
'At Least Six' Others Reportedly Involved in Hebron *[IRNA]* 3
Hamas Leader in Gaza Strip Interviewed *[Barcelona LA VANGUARDIA 6 Mar]* 3
Hamas Urges 'Jihad,' Programs 'To Deal' With Settlers *[AL-DUSTUR 9 Mar]* 4
'Self-Styled' Provisional Government Writes Clinton *[JORDAN TIMES 9 Mar]* 4
Territories' Losses From Closure Estimated *[AL-QUDS 9 Mar]* 5
'Multifaceted Battle' Urged in Response to Massacre *[Baghdad VOP]* 6
Commentary: Settlements Issue Must Top Talks *[Sanaa VOP]* 6

ARAB AFRICA

Egypt

Yemeni President, Delegation Arrive for 'Brief' Visit 8
Visit Previewed *[MENA]* 8
Mubarak, Salih Meet *[MENA]* 8
Salih Praises Mubarak's Effort *[MENA]* 8
Mubarak, Salih Hold News Conference *[MENA]* 8
Salih Departs *[MENA]* 10

Libya

GPC: Hebron Massacre Act of Israeli Government *[JANA]* 10
Opposition Broadcasts To Urge Toppling of Regime *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 10

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Kuwait

Envoy Calls for Maintaining Iraqi Sanctions *[Kuwait TV]* 11

Saudi Arabia

Jordan's Husayn 'Snubbed' by Saudis, King Fahd *[AFP]* 11

Yemen

Statement Notes 'Positive' Moves of Military Units *[Sanaa Radio]* 12
YSP Proposes Two Options for Resolving Crisis *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 8 Mar]* 12
YSP Proposes 'Confederation' Formula *[London AL-HAYAH 9 Mar]* 12
Presidential Council Member Receives League Team *[Sanaa Radio]* 13

IRAQ

INC Says Saddam Planning Invasion of Kurdistan *[Vienna DER STANDARD 5-6 Mar]* 14
Kurdish Official: Baghdad Massing Troops *[AFP]* 14
Army Reportedly Launches Attacks in South *[IRNA]* 14
SAIRI Appeals to UN To End Attack *[Kuwait TV]* 14
Pro-Saddam Kurdish Officials Reaffirm Loyalty *[Baghdad Radio]* 15
Three Replaced in 'Kurdish Government' Reshuffle *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 8 Mar]* 15
Reopening of 'Baby Milk Factory' Reported 15
Saddam Chairs RCC, Ba'th Command Meeting *[Baghdad Radio]* 16
Saddam Calls on Iraqi Women's Union *[Baghdad Radio]* 16
Ninawa Telecommunications Installations Rebuilt *[INA]* 16
Iranian Stand During Gulf War Reviewed, Analyzed *[AL-THAWRAH 2 Mar]* 16
Paper: Papal Visit Would Send 'Clear Message' *[INA]* 17
Vatican Denies Pope To Visit *[London AL-HAYAH 8 Mar]* 17

ISRAEL

Report Details Objectives of Rabin's U.S. Visit *[HA'ARETZ 9 Mar]* 18
Russia's Call for 2nd Madrid Conference Rejected *[Jerusalem TV]* 18
Peres Interviewed by Palestinian Reporters *[AL-QUDS 9 Mar]* 18
Likud Faction Calls on Rabin To Quit *[Jerusalem Radio]* 19
Report Criticizes Security at Site of Massacre *[Jerusalem Radio]* 19
Compensation Agreement Reached for Hebron Victims *[Jerusalem Radio]* 19
U.S. Legal Moves on Kakh, Kahana Hay Viewed *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 6 Mar]* 19
Inclusion of Local Arabs in Process Urged *[AL HAMISHMAR 6 Mar]* 20
Data Issued on Law Enforcement Against Settlers *[DAVAR 9 Mar]* 21
Twelve Palestinians Wounded in Territories' Clashes *[Jerusalem TV]* 21
Soldiers Kill 2 'Terrorists' at Gaza Checkpoint *[Jerusalem Radio]* 21
Police Arrest 2 Fugitive 'Right-Wing Extremists' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 21
Hamas Squad, Rioters Arrested in East Jerusalem *[Jerusalem Radio]* 21
Update on 8 Mar Situation in Territories, Golan Heights *[HA'ARETZ 9 Mar]* 21
SHAS To Return To Government 'Within 10 Days' *[Jerusalem TV]* 22
Tzomet Renews NRP, Agudat Yisra'el Alliance *[Jerusalem Radio]* 22
Ministry Announces Accords on Visa Exemptions *[GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE]* 22

JORDAN

Official Reaction Split on King's Saudi Visit *[JORDAN TIMES 10 Mar]* 23
King's Visit Viewed *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 24
Prosecutor Interrogating 30 Defendants on Bombings *[SAWT AL-SHA'B 5 Mar]* 24
Islamic Front, Arab Party Pledge To Foil Normalization *[AL-ASWAQ 6 Mar]* 24
IAF Deputies Demand Release of 'Activists' *[JORDAN TIMES 9 Mar]* 25
Differences in IAF 'Openly,' 'Officially' Erupt *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 4 Mar]* 25
Security Incident Said To Raise 'Questions' *[AL-SABIL 8-14 Mar]* 26
Muslim Brotherhood Leader on 'Slander Campaign' *[AL-SABIL 8-14 Mar]* 27
Sources Cast Doubt on U.S. Trade Center Verdicts *[London AL-HAYAH 6 Mar]* 28
Defendant's Father Denies Son's Guilt *[JORDAN TIMES 6 Mar]* 28
Weapons Found in PFLP Leader's Car on Visit *[AL-BILAD 9 Mar]* 29
U.S. Saratoga Missiles Spread Residual Radiation *[AL-BILAD 9 Mar]* 29

LEBANON

Explosives Discovered Near French Cultural Center 30
Device Defused *[VOL]* 30
Further on Attempted Bombing *[AFP]* 30
Three Arrested *[Beirut Radio]* 30

SYRIA

Israeli Knesset Member on Official Visit to Syria 31
Comments on Visit *[Jerusalem International]* 31

Notes Palestinians' Status *[London AL-HAYAH 8 Mar]* 32
Meets With President *[Damascus Radio]* 32
Comments on Meeting *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 32
Radio Reports on al-Asad Meeting *[Jerusalem Radio]* 33
Further on al-Asad Meeting *[Damascus TV]* 34

SOUTH ASIA

India

Radio Reports on Postponement of UN's Kashmir Resolution *[Delhi Radio]* 38
Efforts of PRC, Iran Noted *[Delhi Radio]* 38
India's 'Stunning' Victory Noted *[Delhi Radio]* 38
Pakistan Urged To 'Accept Defeat' *[Delhi Radio]* 38

Iran

U.S. Urged To Make 'Greater Concessions' for Relations *[TEHRAN TIMES 8 Mar]* 39
Editorial: Settling Financial Matters Would Help Ties *[KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL 5 Mar]* 39
Egyptian Charges About Assassination Plot Denounced *[Tehran International]* 40
Speaker Urges Islamic World To 'Rise Up' *[IRNA]* 40
Velayati, Afghanistan's Gaylani Meet, Discuss Events *[Tehran Radio]* 41
Tajikistan Opposition Leader, Official Comment on Talks *[Tehran Radio]* 41
Official Cited on Mediation of Kashmir Situation *[Tehran Radio]* 42
Commentary Examines UN's Pursuance of 'Double Standards' *[Tehran Radio]* 42
Majles Passes State Budget Bill *[Tehran TV]* 43
Germany Envoy, Finance Minister Discuss Expansion of Ties *[IRNA]* 43

Pakistan

Minister Views Postponement of Vote on Kashmir *[Islamabad TV]* 43
More on Foreign Minister's Comments *[Islamabad Radio]* 44
Interior Minister Alleges 'Joint' RAW-Khad Liaison *[THE MUSLIM 9 Mar]* 44
Indian Forces Fire Across Control Line; 1 Killed *[Islamabad Radio]* 45
Editorial Views Iranian Proposal for Regional Alliance *[NAWA-I-WAQT 8 Mar]* 45

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Officials Submit Report on Yemen

NC0903175794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1650 GMT 9 Mar 94

[Text] Cairo, 9 Mar (MENA)—Major General Sa'id Bayraqdar, Arab League assistant secretary general for military affairs, and Ambassador Mayhub al-Mayhubi, head of the General Administration of Arab Affairs in the league, today submitted to Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid a detailed report on their mission in Yemen and their meetings with Yemeni leaders.

They said the Yemeni leaders appreciated and welcomed the visit. The officials added that they attempted to contain the situation so that Yemen will achieve stability by maintaining its unity.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Receives 'Urgent' Message From Yeltsin

LD1003092194 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0700 GMT 10 Mar 94

[Text] Yesterday evening President Yasir 'Arafat received an urgent message from the Russian administration conveyed to him by an envoy of Russian President Yeltsin.

The Russian leadership's message to 'Arafat came a few hours after the issuing of the Russian proposal in Moscow calling for the convening of a second international conference, similar to the Madrid conference, to activate the peace process after the Hebron massacre. But Israel was swift to express its opposition to this proposal and its preference for continuing the bilateral talks. The United States affirmed the same stance.

Qaddumi Welcomes Russian Initiative for Conference

NC1003095094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0925 GMT 10 mar 94

[Text] Tunis, 10 Mar (MENA)—Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, has welcomed the new Russian initiative, which calls for a new international conference along the lines of the Madrid conference to assess the current status of the peace process.

In a statement today, Qaddumi said this initiative is worthy of consideration and the Palestinian leadership must give it the attention it deserves.

PLO Taking Hebron Statements 'Very Seriously'

JN0803132894 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic 8 Mar 94 pp 1, 11

[Report from Tunis]

[Text] The PLO leadership in Tunis has taken very seriously a number of statements issued following the Hebron massacre, copies of which were dispatched to Yasir 'Arafat. The PLO leader immediately informed the members of the intifadah higher central committee, the West Bank committee, and three of his aides for occupied territory affairs of these statements. These aides are Ziyad Abu-Ziyad, Mahmud al-'Alul, and Jibril al-Rujub. The statements were extensively distributed during the three days that followed the massacre. The issuing side described itself as the Fatah committee inside the occupied territory.

One of these statements, which carried the heading: "Appeal to the Fatah Leaders," was addressed to Faruq Qaddumi, 'Abbas Zaki, Sakhr Habash, Muhammad Jihad, Muhammad Ghunaym, and Khalid al-Hasan, which the statement described as the Fatah leaders in the absence of a collective leadership. A copy of the statement was sent to 'Arafat by one of his aides who said that it was distributed on a large scale in the al-Baq'ah refugee camp [in Jordan]. The statement demanded that an emergency leadership be formed to put reform programs in effect and asked that Fatah return to the field to carry out all kinds of struggle, especially the armed struggle.

In conclusion, the statement addressed the abovementioned Fatah leaders by saying: Your response or lack of response to this appeal will gauge the extent of our dealing with you.

Another statement addressed to the Fatah leaders described the negotiations and the peace process as a tool for circumventing the Palestinian people's struggle and sacrifices. The statement leveled sharp criticism at the Palestinian leadership, describing its members as leaders who can only commit themselves to implementing instructions from the White House, which did not allow them to react to the Hebron massacre except with condemnations and denunciations.

In another statement attributed to the Unified National Leadership of the Intifadah—Qawim [resist], an appeal was made to reconstitute the intifadah's strike forces in all parts of the state of Palestine, restore the state of popular Palestinian unrest and direct it toward the occupation and settlers, and begin a comprehensive and responsible national dialogue to unify efforts and confront the current phase.

Other statements of similar import studied by 'Arafat and his aides are attributed to the western sector in the Fatah Movement. One of these statements carried a warning to the settlers that the time for retribution has come.

Similar statements were also issued attributed to the Fatah cadres in Jordan and Tunisia, rejecting the negotiations and calling for a change in the Fatah and PLO readerships, which 'Arafat took very seriously. He demanded information on who stands behind these statements and the weight they could carry on the way to

creating an organizational coup on the highest level within the Fatah Movement.

Palestinian Committees Investigate Hebron Massacre

TA0903112994 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 9 Mar 94 p A3

[Report by Yosi Torpstein]

[Text] Two Palestinian commissions of inquiry into the Hebron massacre are currently operating in Hebron: one set up on 5 March by PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, and the other appointed by the Islamic administration in Jerusalem.

The investigation of the Islamic commission focuses on three aspects. The first regards the guard procedures at the Cave of the Patriarchs by the Islamic Waqf and the Israel Defense Forces [IDF] prior to and on the day of the massacre. The commission found that the four IDF soldiers who were present at the site during the massacre fled from the cave as soon as the shooting was heard. The other issue this committee is investigating is the events during the massacre, mainly those pertaining to the evacuation and treatment of the wounded. The committee found that IDF soldiers fired at the Palestinians who wanted to evacuate the wounded and at ambulances. This caused a delay of more than one hour in the evacuation, which caused the death of some of the casualties. The third issue under the commission's investigation deals with events during the two days following the massacre, the manner in which hospitals treated the wounded from the cave, and casualties from IDF soldiers' fire during clashes in the city.

Palestinian sources from Hebron associated with the Islamic commission have said that the commission obtained a document which contains a plan by the Jewish settlers to push the Muslims out of the Cave of the Patriarchs. According to the sources, Supreme Court President Me'ir Shamgar, head of the Israeli commission of inquiry, has, through intermediaries, requested a copy of the document. The members of the Islamic committee have not yet decided whether to accept the request, the sources said.

The committee appointed by the PLO is about to present an official request to Israel's top echelons—including Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin; Major General Sha'ul Mufaz, commander of the IDF units in the West Bank; and Brigadier General Gadi Zohar, head of the Civil Administration—asking for permission to collect testimonies from IDF soldiers who were at the Cave of the Patriarchs and its vicinity.

The PLO committee, the headquarters of which are located at the Hebron Academics Association building, has so far collected 40 testimonies of Palestinians who were present during the massacre, 12 testimonies of people who were wounded during the massacre, and the testimonies of four Islamic Waqf guards who were at the site during the massacre. The committee has also drafted charts of the site and the circumstances of the massacre. The committee's findings will be handed over to the PLO Executive Committee in Tunis.

The PLO committee is made up of 11 Hebron residents: five lawyers (including two former judges), three physicians, an engineer, a surveyor, and Shaykh Muhammad Nazim Tahbub, the Hebron area mufti, who is also a member of the Islamic commission board. The committee is headed by Attorney Hashim al-Qawasmi, a former district court judge and West Bank district attorney. It also includes engineer Mustafa al-Natshah, former Hebron mayor and a leading Fatah public figure in the region.

The PLO committee is divided into four subcommittees, each having a separate area of investigation. A subcommittee investigating the legal aspects, assigned with conducting a debriefing of the chain of events during the massacre and after it, has so far collected 40 testimonies of Palestinians who were at the Cave of the Patriarchs during the massacre. A medical subcommittee is examining the issue of the massacre fatalities and is questioning the wounded. A technical subcommittee is examining the site layout, and preparing drafts and diagrams. A shari'a (Muslim-religious) subcommittee is dealing with the Cave of the Patriarchs status as a holy site and the ritual procedures in it. Attorney Hashim al-Qawasmi, committee head, said yesterday he believes the committee will end its work in two weeks.

The Islamic committee is made up of four members, all residents of Hebron: an attorney, a university professor, and two clergymen. Two members of the committee, including Dr. 'Aziz Duwayk, who was deported to south Lebanon, are supporters of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]. The head of the committee is Shaykh 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Muhtasib, the Hebron shari'a qadi (ruling on Islamic laws). The committee was set up the day after the massacre by the Higher Islamic Council and the Muslim Waqf Council in Jerusalem.

The members of the committee collected 30 testimonies of eyewitnesses and Cave of the Patriarchs Waqf officials. It intends to question Palestinian casualties who are hospitalized in al-Muqasid in Jerusalem and government hospitals in Bayt Jala and Ramallah. The committee has asked the Civil Administration for permits to leave the Hebron area, which is under curfew, and travel to the government hospitals to collect testimonies there. This committee has stated, giving a preliminary figure, that 36 Palestinians were killed on the day of the massacre by Barukh Goldstein and IDF soldiers' fire throughout Hebron. The committee will soon publish its findings.

'At Least Six' Others Reportedly Involved in Hebron

LD1003093094 Tehran IRNA in English 0825 GMT 10 Mar 94

[Text] Bonn, March 10, IRNA—A Palestinian doctor who is now living in Germany has disclosed more details on the massacre of Palestinian worshipers in Hebron on February 25.

Maysam Abu-'Ali, a former resident of Hebron, said that he had been in the shrine at the time of the massacre and at the hebron Islamic hospital after the incident. He noted that at 05:15 am Friday Barukh Goldstein together with at least six other Zionists who were all in army uniforms attacked the mosque with tens of hand grenades and then sprayed the worshipers with bullets. About 53 worshipers were immediately martyred and 250 others severely wounded while seven others, trying to flee the mosque, were killed and 40 others injured by heavy fire of the Zionist soldiers outside the mosque, he added.

He dismissed the Zionist regime's claims that Israeli forces had not cooperated with the attackers and said that the soldiers opened heavy fire in front of the Hebron Islamic hospital on Muslims who had rushed to the scene to donate blood to the wounded, killing three and wounded 30 others.

On Palestinians reaction to the massacre, Abu-'Ali remarked that despite extenive presence of the heavily armed Zionist forces around al-Aqsa mosque, over 90,000 Palestiians turned out to hold the Friday prayers in the mosque. In a demonstration which followed the prayers, 17 Palestinian worshipers were martyred and tens of others were wounded, the doctor said.

He continued that the Arabic translation of the message of the leader of the Islamic revolution, Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i, on the Hebron catastrophe, which was soon distributed in all parts of the occupied territories, raised hope in the hearts of the oppressed Palestinians.

Hamas Leader in Gaza Strip Interviewed

PM0903122994 Barcelona LA VANGUARDIA in Spanish 6 Mar 94 p 8

["Exclusive interview" with Hamas leader Mahmud al-Zahhar by Henrique Cymerman in Gaza city; date not given]

[Text] Jerusalem—"This massacre was to be expected from the outset. The Israeli people and government do not believe in peace. Israel speaks of peace negotiations but thinks only of its security and trade agreements with the Arab countries. Fatah's stance is shameful, because they use guns only at festivities and weddings; it would be illogical for 'Arafat to agree to go to Washington for the negotiations. 'Arafat is a strange and crazy individual," Dr. Mahmud al-Zahhar, the current leader of Hamas—the most feared Palestinian fundamentalist group—told LA VANGUARDIA in an exclusive interview in Gaza city.

"Hamas has a right to defend itself from Israel's existence. Thus it says frankly in its pamphlets, slogans, and graffiti, and on the streets, that it will seek out the Israelis and attack them," al-Zahhar asserted. Almost at the same time, the Israeli official radio station—Kol Israel—was announcing a lethal attack in Hebron by 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam, Hamas' military wing.

[Cymerman] Is it true that the prophet Muhammad chose the fasting month of Ramadan for his holy wars—more than any other month in the year?

[Al-Zahhar] The most outstanding battles of the Islamic world took place during Ramadan. Following these battles, the spread of Islam was very rapid. It can be seen that most of Islam's victorious battles against the infidel were in the month of Ramadan.

[Cymerman] A few days ago the PLO leader and the Israeli foreign minister signed an agreement in Cairo. How do you view this, in your capacity as leader of an Islamic movement?

[Al-Zahhar] We said from the start that we would gain nothing from this peace process, which is just the achievement of security for the Israeli side and of the Palestinian side's capitulation. Now it means the presence of Israeli troops in 40 percent of the area of Gaza. According to the agreement, they are fully entitled to pursue those whom they call "wanted persons." They can come at any time to our homes and seek their "wanted persons." The Israelis will also be the only force on the approaches to Gaza and Jericho. Thus there is no difference between the current occupation and the implementation of the latest agreement. The Israelis will never carry out a withdrawal, since this interferes with anybody's daily life under the heading "security requirements." It can be seen that there is simply a justification of the occupation. That means settling the Israelis in the most comfortable areas of Gaza, while the occupation still exists in reality.

[Cymerman] One of the results of the agreements will be the coming of Yasir 'Arafat and the establishment of a strong Palestinian police force....

[Al-Zahhar] If this police force is here to serve the community, we will receive it willingly, but if it becomes the hands of Israel to establish a tyrannical regime in this area, I believe that they will do what Israel wishes. The people will endure no more tyrannies. They have resisted the occupation since 1967 and paid a high price—thousands of years of imprisonment, thousands of martyrs. We seek the elimination of any kind of occupation.

[Cymerman] Do you believe that 'Arafat is a traitor? Do you believe that he has sold out Palestine?

[Al-Zahhar] In the first place, I would like to remind you of 'Atnan Yasin, the traitor responsible for the events of

June and July 1992—the conflict between Hamas and Fatah. He was the person most responsible for those clashes. We fear such people. Palestine does not belong to one man's organization or even to a state. Palestine does not belong to a generation. Palestine was and will be part of the Islamic world.

[Cymerman] Will Hamas take part in the general elections for the autonomous entity?

[Al-Zahhar] Hamas believes that the new situation will be more dangerous for the Palestinians than the occupation. The international attitude is opposed to the occupation, but through justification of the occupation through these agreements this will create many problems for the Palestinians. What will become of the millions of Palestinians abroad and of the hundreds of thousands of deportees? What will become of Jerusalem, with the rest of the West Bank? What will become of our rights over Palestine? 'Arafat and his colleagues must answer all these questions. Hamas will not take part in the elections and will not assume the role of opposition in the Palestinian autonomous entity. Hamas will continue to resist the Israelis' presence by all means.

[Cymerman] That is, you see no future for the peace process between Israel and the Palestinians....

[Al-Zahhar] This is no peace process. It is an agreement between the PLO and Israel. The occupation will be more legal from the international viewpoint. Israel will be the dominant force and the center of authority in Tel Aviv, and will give us Palestinians the right to self-control. That is what autonomy means; the same as the Kurds in Iraq. The central government—the master of the land—will give self-determination to a minority national group. With the signing of this agreement 'Arafat is saying that Israel is the master of all Palestine and that it is giving us the opportunity to set up an autonomous entity. This is the most dangerous point in the the agreement signed in the so-called peace talks.

Hamas Urges 'Jihad,' Programs 'To Deal' With Settlers

JN0903102794 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 9 Mar 94 p 29

[By Tawfiq 'Abid]

[Excerpts] Engineer Ibrahim Ghawshah, official spokesman for the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, has urged the other Palestinian forces and factions to develop a jihad and militant program to deal with settlers and Zionist occupation.

He said: The Zionist challenge forces all to confront this challenge. The 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam Battalions [Hamas military wing] have worked out a plan to deal with the phenomenon of settlement, the most dangerous phenomenon of occupation, which stands as the beginning of extending the Zionist entity to any land on which settlements are built.

In an interview with AL-DUSTUR, he said the jihad and struggle operations are not coordinated for pure security reasons. Each mujahid and struggling group plans and carries out its independent operations, but these operations should have specific objective and timing.

He added: We believe that Palestinian forces, whether they are 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam Battalions, Fatah Hawks, the Red Eagle, or any another mujahid faction are asked to meet the demands of the Palestinian people and the Arab and Islamic nations by taking revenge on criminal Zionists and give a clear signal to the world that the Jewish blood is not dearer than the Arab or Muslim blood.

Ghawshah was answering a question on coordination between the members of Alliance of the Palestinian Forces [APF], or between Fatah and Hamas, to retaliate against the holy Ibrahimi Mosque massacre. He said: There are some technical obstacles such as curfew, siege, and restrictions imposed by occupation. These measures may delay the retaliation, but certainly a good chance will come and should be used with full force, sacrifice, and determination. [passage omitted]

He concluded his interview by saying the APF will hold a meeting in Damascus on 20 March to discuss organizational and political issues. He said an APF delegation will be formed to visit the Libyan Jamahiriyah this month. The visit will be the beginning of other visits that will include a large number of Arab and Islamic countries, including Iran.

'Self-Styled' Provisional Government Writes Clinton

JN0903100894 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 9 Mar 94 p 3

[Text] Amman—A group of Palestinians, believed to be mainly returnees from Kuwait who have set up a self-styled "Palestinian government—provisional leadership council," has sent a message to U.S. President Bill Clinton disowning the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and calling on Washington to shift its stand away from the PLO in the quest for a Middle East peace settlement.

Palestinian observers and diplomats dismissed the group as insignificant. Some said they never heard of such a group and others said it did not represent any large number of Palestinians and did not enjoy grass-roots support.

The group, if indeed it has any membership that warrants such a description, appears to be one that first surfaced in Jordan in late 1990, mainly represented by one man who used to describe himself as a Palestinian journalist who was forced out of Kuwait following the Iraqi invasion of the emirate.

The man, who gave varying names to different people, claimed that he represented "the sons of Palestine who

enjoy grass-roots support in the occupied territories, particularly the West Bank."

"We will show our real strength when the time is right, and we will take over the leadership of the Palestinian people everywhere," the man has reportedly told news organisations before disappearing from view for some time.

According to some Palestinian sources, the man has supporters among a few of the Palestinian returnees from Kuwait who resented the PLO's sympathy for Iraq during the Gulf crisis. The PLO stand, they argued, had led to their ouster from the emirate.

A copy of a letter from the group, addressed to "United States of America, Washington, White House, his kind attention his excellency the president of the United States Mr. Bill Clinton" (sic), was made available to the JORDAN TIMES Tuesday [8 March].

The typed message was on a letterhead bearing the name "Palestinian government—provisional leadership council," and had an official-looking rubber stamp.

A recorded voice answered calls to a telephone number given in the letterhead.

No comment was immediately available from the U.S. Embassy here, whether it had received a copy of the letter or how it was treating the purported group.

The undated letter said the PLO "doesn't represent the Palestinians under the occupation and immigrants all over the world," and that the Tunis-based organisation "represets only those who are employees and having orders and salaries from (Chairman Yasir) 'Arafat."

"We as Palestinians are very grateful to your adminstration, which collected financial aid to the occupied territories," said the letter, written in poor English, in an apparent reference to Washington's role in securing international pledges worth more than $2.2 billion to support the Sept. 13 Israel-PLO accord.

The rambling letter, parts of which did not make much sense, said economic development of the occupied territories was not possible if it was "run by military mentality people," and suggested that an international conference be held in Jordan to elect "a temporary Palestinian administration to run the occupied territories" with help from Jordan. The proposed administration should tackle the various aspects of the situation of the occupied territories, including economics, health, agriculture, education, public relations, industry and investment, it said.

According to the group, participants in the proposed administration should include Palestine, Jordan and unspecified "other areas" and "some persons" from the PLO in their capacity as independents.

A pre-qualification set by the group for anyone to take part in the proposed administration is "good behaviour" and a "behaviour certificate" from the country of residence.

It called for the establishment of a "Jordanian-Palestinian national bank for development" with 50 percent of the equity for Jordan and Palestine and the rest for countries which have pledged aid.

The capital for the bank could come from the pledged funds and the institution will be run by a committee under the "supervision of your administration," the letter told President Clinton.

It also called for the establishment of a society "for old fighters" to be trained in civil administration and development and to "let them (old fighters) live a pure life by cleaning the military mentality that they (have) lived..."

It argued that "any Palestinian state couldn't act without a link with Jordan" and expressed "hope that matters (will) turn back to (pre)-1967 June (as) a result of a survey (presumably a referendum)."

"Let the Jordanians and Palestinians give any name to the new unity," it said. "This unity will (preempt) establishing different administrations... the nature of partnership between (the) West and East Bank(s) of (the) Jordan River could be not separated...

"Jordan has given opportunities for immigrants to take their chances to grow up educationally and financially," said the four page letter. "People are fair will consider how much Jordan (spent) on such... matters..." [sentence as published]

"If such a link takes place," said the letter, "the replacement of Jordan (as) Palestine will be completely" pre-empted.

Territories' Losses From Closure Estimated

TA0903161194 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 9 Mar 94 p 5

[By Sa'id 'Iyad]

[Excerpt] Bethlehem—An economic expert has estimated the losses to the Palestinian economy from the ongoing military closure and curfew imposed on the occupied territories 12 days ago at $50 million.

Dr. Nabil Kawkali, a Hebron University researcher, said that the economic losses cover all productive, consumer, social, cultural, and tourist sectors. If the military closure continues for a longer period, the losses will increase. He added that the labor and commercial sectors have suffered the most, because transfers of goods between the Palestinian occupied territories or with Israel have stopped. The agricultural sector comes next, as the military closure has compounded the losses of farmers, who have been suffering from consecutive losses. [passage omitted]

'Multifaceted Battle' Urged in Response to Massacre

JN0403161194 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1700 GMT 3 Mar 94

[Text] Without a doubt, the political reverberations of the Ibrahimi Mosque massacre are, as yet, not clear enough for us to assess their ultimate impact on the negotiating process. For one thing, worldwide condemnation of the massacre has not been such as to lead one to conclude that the Middle East peace process will go forward or that the Palestinian side has improved its bargaining position at the negotiating table. For another, the enormity and monstrosity of the massacre can only reinforce the image the world has of the odious nature of occupation. Which means that true salvation for the Palestinian people and the path to true peace in the region lie in a total Israeli evacuation of the Palestinian territory. We need to come up with the proper response to the massacre, and, since its political reverberations are still developing, their nature and scale will be determined by the mechanisms employed by both sides of the conflict and the skill with which they are used.

If the enemy government seeks to assuage resentment and return things to where they were before the massacre, in order to escape the concessions expected of it as a price for this abominable crime, then the PLO must embark upon a vigorous drive to restate the truths the odious occupation has brought into sharp focus; namely that true peace in the region is an impossibility without a complete Israeli withdrawal and guarantees for the freedom and independence of the Palestinian people. While this is not the first massacre committed against the Palestinian people during their conflict with Israel, it marks a first in terms of scale and ugliness. It was committed against the background of a negotiating process that pushed the ugly face of occupation into the background and presented decisionmakers and public opinion around the world with the appearance of a thriving future peace. In other words, the negotiating process supplanted the true picture of occupation with good wishes and grand dreams that could not realistically come true without potent pressure being brought to bear on the occupying power. If that pressure has not been forthcoming it is because the Israeli occupation has not been perceived to be that much of a threat to the lives, security, and future of the Palestinian people.

The Ibrahimi Mosque atrocity has debunked these illusions and sent the message that peace and occupation do not mix. We must think of a response to the massacre less in the manner of an act of retribution and more in line with a comprehensive policy. This is because any purely retaliatory act will hardly strike at the heart of occupation. Nor should our retaliation be restricted to one domain. We must invest the political dividends of the massacre at the negotiating table while providing a direct answer by spilling Israeli blood through a systematic intensification of the armed struggle against those who bear direct responsibility for the massacre—the Kach movement's gangsters and occupation troops. This is to underscore resistance and the ongoing intifadah as legitimate rights as our people strive to wrest their freedom and independence. In other words, we must engage the enemy in a multifaceted battle until it is defeated and all forms of its presence on our land and the dark era of occupation are eliminated once and for all. These are inexorable eventualities. Revolution until victory.

Commentary: Settlements Issue Must Top Talks

JN0803130394 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1822 GMT 7 Mar 94

[Station commentary: "Blood, Massacre, and Settlements"]

[Text] A very long time will pass before the Ibrahimi Mosque massacre fades from our memory, a massacre the Zionist army and settlers committed against worshipers, with advanced planning, monstrous precision, and a diabolical terrorist spirit. The perpetrators of this horrible massacre intended it to violate our people's sacred three: The sacred Friday, the month of Ramadan, and the Ibrahimi Mosque, so the wound would be deeper, the pain doubled, and the outrage profound.

The Zionist movement and its successive generations have adopted this kind of massacre as an article of faith and a modus operandi against our Palestinian people. Such massacres have always been a precursor of prominent phases in this long and sanguinary struggle, beginning with the Dayr Yasin and Qafr Qasim massacres, continuing with the Gaza, al-Sammu', Khan Yunis, the al-Aqsa mosque [words indistinct] 'Uyun Qarah [Rishon Letziyyon], and ending with the Ibrahimi Mosque massacre.

We know that in these massacres, Zionists sought to wipe out the other side and liquidate it so the reality could be the same as the myth. The Jewish myth, characterized by racism and hatred, describes Palestine as a land a without a people. The massacre was designed to wipe out the people and uproot their civilized existence and pave the way for the triumph of the myth.

In implementation of the policy of massacres, we find that the leaders of the Zionist movement, who have been and continue to be leaders of the State of Israel, made massacres the main component of their personal history, from which they derive the feeling of supremacy. They participated in the series of massacres, beginning with Menahem Begin and Yitzhaq Shamir and ending with Yitzhaq Rabin, Israel's incumbent prime minister himself. This means that none of the Israeli rulers, past or present, stand against this kind of black, bloody terrorism because none will stand against his own nature and his very being.

In this latest massacre and in line with our argument, Rabin cannot be the adversary and judge at the same time, the killer who is asked to protect the Palestinian

people. [Words indistinct] clear to the international community which says it wants peace, that it does not approve of these massacres.

The Ibrahimi Mosque massacre reveals to us that the Zionist settlement in the Palestinian territory cannot be [words indistinct] in blood. The leaders of the Israeli Government have several times tried to improve the image ofthe settlements and belittle their danger. The successive U.S. administrations also tried to belittle the importance of the settlements in order to justify to the (?taxpayer) their costs in tens of billions of dollars. However, the Zionist settlements have always exposed themselves by themselves, affirming that they [words indistinct] and the shedding of Palestinian blood during their prayers.

Those in the Israeli governments who created the settlements are aware of this. It is natural that when we plant thorns we should not expect grapes, when we plant bitter plants we do not expect honey, and when we plant settlements we cannot expect peace. In short, settlement building is against peace. The advocates of settlements are against peace. The Israeli Government that wants the settlements to remain, wants the peace to disappear simultaneously. This is the aim of the massacre. This is the motive behind its perpetration at this manner and at this time so it may madly violate the three sanctities at the same time.

It is well-known that the peace tool is negotiations and the perpetrators of the murders aim to stop these negotiations. We should not fall in the trap set for us. We should not slip into the abyss prepared for us by the criminals. At the same time, there can be no negotiations for the sake of negotiations. Negotiations must have codes. [Words indistinct] The blood shed at the Ibrahimi Mosque is more important than letting the course of the negotiations proceed as it is. It is more important than adhering to the same items and [word indistinct] of the agenda. Why should it be discussed after two years? Why not now? Why should the first point in the agenda not be the settlers and the settlements, because this point is either the key to peace or the key to the return of bloody clashes. Let everybody take the responsibility.

Egypt

Yemeni President, Delegation Arrive for 'Brief' Visit

Visit Previewed

NC0903162094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1520 GMT 9 Mar 94

[Text] Cairo, 9 Mar (MENA)—Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and the delegation accompanying him arrived in Cairo from Sanaa this evening for a brief visit to Egypt that will last for a few hours.

Presidents Mubarak and Salih are scheduled to hold a session of talks later in the day on bilateral relations and ways to remove any obstacles blocking the implementation of the Pledge and Accord Document for Yemeni reconciliation.

President Mubarak led the reception party for the Yemeni president on his arrival at Cairo Airport's VIP lounge. Ministers and senior state officials also were on hand to receive the Yemeni president.

Mubarak, Salih Meet

NC0903182094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1625 GMT 9 Mar 94

[Text] Cairo, 9 Mar (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak and Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih held talks at the Presidential Office in Heliopolis this evening immediately after the Yemeni president's arrival in Cairo.

The conferees reviewed the latest developments in the region in light of the current events in Yemen and the possibility of resolving the differences between the rival parties in that country. They also exchanged views on world and regional issues of mutual interest.

Salih Praises Mubarak's Effort

NC0903192194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1745 GMT 9 Mar 94

[Text] Cairo, 9 Mar (MENA)—Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih has expressed his country's appreciation to Egypt for its support of and assistance to the Yemeni revolution and for its contribution to the development of his country.

In a statement made after he arrived in Cairo today, he praised President Husni Mubarak's efforts, eagerness to stand by the Yemeni people, and sincere work to contain the crisis and preserve Yemeni unity and democracy in his country.

He said his visit to Cairo is an opportunity to review bilateral relations and explore more aspects of cooperation between Egypt and Yemen. He added that he will brief President Mubarak on the latest developments in his country in light of the efforts to implement the Pledge and Accord Document, expressing optimism on this matter.

He pointed out that dealing with terrorist operations and security disturbances in Egypt and Yemen will be discussed during his visit to coordinate the stances of the two countries on the issue. He said Egypt's security is the security of Yemen and the entire Arab nation.

He noted Egyptian and Yemeni efforts to achieve Arab reconciliation and restore Arab solidarity.

The Yemeni president expressed the hope that these efforts will be consolidated to achieve the Arab nation's aspirations to overcome the current problems and open a new chapter in inter-Arab relations.

Mubarak, Salih Hold News Conference

NC0903215894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2030 GMT 9 Mar 94

[Text] Cairo, 9 Mar (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih have expressed their hope that an early solution will be found for the current problems in Yemen. The two leaders held a joint news conference tonight following four hours of talks.

President Mubarak said that we are about to find a solution to these problems. He added that the talks covered a number of topics, including the situation in Yemen, bilateral relations, and several Arab issues.

The Yemeni president voiced appreciation for Mubarak's efforts to resolve the Yemeni crisis. He said that he and President Mubarak reviewed longstanding bilateral ties, inter-Arab relations, and the current crisis in Yemen.

President Salih said that he briefed President Mubarak on the Yemeni crisis and the Pledge and Accord Document signed recently in Amman. The troubles should have ended with the signing of the Amman document, but regrettably the crisis has dragged on and has resulted in military clashes, which we do not want, the Yemeni president stated.

President Mubarak opened the news conference by welcoming the Yemeni president. Mubarak said: We discussed a number of topics during our meeting, including the problems in Yemen, bilateral relations, and other Arab issues. I believe we are about to resolve many problems.

The Yemeni president replied by thanking President Mubarak. President Salih said: I am happy to be here in Egypt and to hold talks with my brother President Mubarak. The Yemeni president added that he and President Mubarak reviewed longstanding Yemeni-Egyptian relations, inter-Arab relations, and international issues.

President Salih pointed out that the Yemeni crisis began on 19 August when differences surfaced among the three coalition parties: The General People's Congress, the Yemeni Socialist Party, and the Yemeni Reform Group.

I briefed my brother President Mubarak on the details and causes of this crisis. I also briefed him on the Pledge and Accord Document that was concluded in Amman. The document was supposed to bring the crisis to an immediate end so that the leadership could resume its constitutional and executive tasks, but unfortunately the crisis continued and had military consequences, a development which we did not wish to see, President Salih remarked.

The Yemeni president said: Inspired with a sense of national responsibility, the three parties of the coalition agreed to withdraw the units from their positions on the pre-May-1990 partition lines. Most were withdrawn, with the exception of a few thousand troops in certain governorates, which will be pulled out as well. But some provocations and media posturing continues, President Salih added.

I have discussed this matter with my brother, President Mubarak. The Egyptian president is holding consultations to reconcile the two sides and to find a peaceful solution to the current problem. I should recall here that Yemeni unity was achieved through peaceful and democratic means, President Salih stated.

The Yemeni President said: This problem should be resolved. We are eager to settle all problems through peaceful and fraternal means and find an understanding. We do not want the troubles in Yemen to fester.

We highly appreciate the part played by the Egyptian leadership, government, and people and the great concern your country displays toward Yemeni unity. This is hardly surprising. Egypt played a major role in inspiring the revolutions of 26 September and 14 October and has sent us the best of its sons to assist us, President Salih noted.

The two presidents then answered questions from reporters.

The Yemeni President was asked if the withdrawal of military units is linked to bringing to trial those involved in recent terrorist operations. He responded: The Pledge and Accord Document calls for the withdrawal of all military units from major towns. Other units will remain in their positions whenever this is in the national interest of unified Yemen.

The document also calls for measures to achieve security and stability. According to that document, those involved in acts of sabotage and violence should be arrested in accordance with a plan to be presented by the interior minister to the coalition government led by Haydar al-'Attas. The government is responsible for the implementation of the document, President Salih stated.

The Yemeni president added: The leadership was supposed to close its ranks so that the Presidential Council and the coalition government could draw up plans or a detailed program for the implementation of the Amman document. Unfortunately, following the Amman meeting the brothers of the Yemeni Socialist Party returned to the commercial and economic capital of Aden and nothing was done.

President Salih said: We are ready to cooperate with other Yemeni leaders in ensuring the arrest of all terrorist elements. However, we have to point out that no party is in the employment of another party. We cannot perform our tasks unless there is harmony among the leaders. This is the responsibility of the government, not the president.

The Yemeni president added: The Presidential Council and the government were supposed to meet immediately to implement the Amman agreement. Unfortunately, Socialist Party leaders returned to Aden.

Concerning the call issued by President Mubarak for the restoration of Arab solidarity, President Salih said: We fully support this pan-Arab stance. There is a need to restore Arab solidarity and clear the atmosphere following the rupture caused by the Gulf war. We appreciate the call made by the Egyptian president and people. Even without President Mubarak making this call, we are aware of and appreciate the efforts he is exerting with all brothers to restore Arab cooperation.

Asked about the task of achieving Arab solidarity and unity, President Mubarak said: Egypt is, above all, an Arab and Islamic country. We are advocates of Arab solidarity. We have been long before I took office. The Gulf war left a trail of scars and divisions in its wake. It took a long time for the dust to settle and the healing process to begin. We have not spared any effort in restoring Arab solidarity and cooperation in various fields. I believe that today the situation is better than at any time before. We are still making an effort.

We hope, God willing, that we may all come to believe in Arab solidarity and see the need to close Arab ranks. This, of course, requires effort but we are working on it because we see this as a primary commitment of the Arab Republic of Egypt, Mubarak said.

President Salih was asked about his country's position on terrorism and about a recent statement made by a Yemeni official that some terrorist elements returning from Afghanistan are living in Yemen. He responded: The Yemeni leadership, government, and people are against terrorist elements, wherever they may be. Egypt's security is a part of the security of the Arab people. Yemen's security is a part of Egypt's security. No Arab country should think that it is safe from terrorist operations conducted under the slogans of Islamic or leftist extremism. We are against terror in all its forms because it yields nothing but havoc and destruction.

The Yemeni president added: It is true that there are elements who came back to Yemen from Afghanistan. But most of them are Yemenis who went to Afghanistan to engage in jihad and were sponsored at the time by Western and some Arab countries. These countries sponsored them in the effort to wage jihad against the Russians in Afghanistan, and even against some Arab regimes in the Arab world. Now we are reaping the harvest of this intellectual and political terrorism.

President Salih said that Yemen is opposed to terror in all its forms. He said: The elements that are in Yemen are Yemenis. Some people claim that there are Egyptian terrorists and some from other nationalities in Yemen. If these people provide us with a list of names, we will be ready, in the context of coordination and in accordance with agreements, to take all necessary legal action against anyone engaged in acts of terror in any Arab country.

Salih Departs

NC0903203394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2010 GMT 9 Mar 94

[Text] Cairo, 9 Mar (MENA)—Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih left Cairo for home tonight after a short visit to Egypt that lasted a few hours. During the visit, he held talks with President Husni Mubarak on developments in the internal situation in Yemen and on the future of bilateral relations.

President Mubarak led the send-off party of the Yemeni president at Cairo Airport.

Libya

GPC: Hebron Massacre Act of Israeli Government

LD0903174694 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1640 GMT 9 Mar 94

[Text] Tripoli, 9 Mar—The secretariat of the General People's Congress issued a statement today on the horrible crime committed by the Israeli occupation forces against Muslims in the holy Ibrahimi mosque. Here is the text of the statement:

The secretariat of the General People's Congress reiterates its anger at and condemnation of the horrible crime perpetrated in the Ibrahimi mosque and the repeated acts of aggression against the heroic Palestinian people which followed.

This horrible crime and other crimes perpetrated by the occupying Israeli invaders are considered the vilest acts of terrorism against innocent people performing the morning prayer in the middle of the blessed month of Ramadan.

The secretariat of the General People's Congress stresses that this crime and the others that have followed it are officially organized terrorism officially directed by the Israeli Government, which has based its existence on such a program since its establishment under the protection of the West, which has officially supported the policy of terrorism manifested in crimes, massacres, and the building of arsenals for weapons of mass destruction.

The secretariat of the General People's Congress, in addressing the conscience of humanity and all honorable people of the world headed by the sons of the Arab and Islamic nation, is insistent that that an end must be put to the tyranny, oppression, and repression exercised by the Israelis for racial motives and with the support of the West. The secretariat urges all of them, Arab and Islamic countries to exercise their rights in the UN Security Council, the United Nations, and the international forums to punish the tyrants who have been blinded by force and fanaticism, to put an end to their terrorist behavior and boycott them.

The secretariat of the General People's Congress asks that everyone should shoulder their responsibilities vis-a-vis these repeated horrible crimes which give warning of the results, which will have reprehensible consequences.

[Signed] The secretariat of the General People's Congress of the Great Jamahiriyah

Opposition Broadcasts To Urge Toppling of Regime

JN1003093894 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0600 GMT 10 Mar 94

[Text] In Cairo, Libyan opposition figure Muhammad Fayiz Jibril said that next week the Libyan opposition will begin radio broadcasts from a Middle Eastern country, which he did not identify. Jibril said the radio will urge Libyans to escalate the struggle to topple al-Qadhdhafi and set up a democracy in Libya. He appealed to concerned international organizations to rescue the life of Colonel (Muftah Qurdum), a Libyan opposition figure whom the Libyan Television presented on Monday [7 March] as a spy working for the United States.

Qurdum introduced himself as a former Army colonel. He admitted that while residing in Switzerland he contacted Libyans living abroad, who supplied the Americans with information. He added that the Americans sought information on the Libyan Armed Forces and the Libyan missile program. They were planning to attack Libya with the help of their spies, who would then seize power.

Muhammad Fayiz Jibril said Qurdum made these false confessions under duress.

Kuwait

Envoy Calls for Maintaining Iraqi Sanctions

LD0803215894 Kuwait KSC Television in Arabic 1900 GMT 8 Mar 94

[Excerpt] Kuwait's permanent representative at the United Nations, Ambassador Muhammad 'Abdallah Abu al-Hasan, has warned against the Iraqi regime's recent maneuvres to get around the UN Security Council resolutions, particularly Resolution 786, to benefit from the lifting of the oil embargo imposed against it. Ambassador Muhammad 'Abdallah Abu al-Hasan stressed to the chairman of the UN Security Council, France's permanent representative at the UN, Jean-Bernard Merimee, the need for maintaining the sanctions imposed on the Iraqi regime as long as that regime, which was still refusing to release Kuwaiti POWs and detainees held in its prisons, did not recognize the sovereignty and independence of the State of Kuwait. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

Jordan's Husayn 'Snubbed' by Saudis, King Fahd

NC0903131494 Paris AFP in English 1208 GMT 9 Mar 94

[By Taieb Mahjoub]

[Text] Dubai, United Arab Emirates, March 9 (AFP)—Jordan's King Husayn was snubbed in Saudi Arabia and flew home Wednesday [9 March] after a Mecca pilgrimage which failed to clinch a reconciliation meeting with King Fahd, Arab diplomats said.

Saudi Arabia's cold reception for King Husayn on his first visit since July 1990 before the Gulf crisis was reflected in Saudi newspapers, which ignored the trip altogether.

The Jordanian monarch was taken aback and cut short his visit, during which he had also been expected to visit Moslem holy sites in nearby Medina, an Arab diplomat said, declining to be named.

Arab diplomats had said the two monarchs were to meet in Mecca, western Saudi Arabia, where King Fahd was also staying. But neither Saudi nor Jordanian officials confirmed that such an encounter was scheduled.

And yet the Saudi monarch late Tuesday received two governors from the Emirates, Shaykh Saqir Bin-Muhammad al-Qasimi and Shaykh Hamid al-Nu'aymi, who were also on pilgrimage to mark the final days of the fasting month of Ramadan.

On arrival in Jeddah earlier the same day, King Husayn was greeted at the airport by the deputy emir of Mecca, Prince Sa'ud Bin-'Abd-al-Muhsin. The same official saw him off.

In Amman, a senior official in Jordan's royal court played down the snub but Western diplomats criticized Riyadh's attitude.

"The aim of the king's visit to Mecca was purely religious" and no request was made for a meeting, the official said, declining to be named. However, "a gesture of courtesy (from King Fahd) would obviously have been welcome."

But a Western diplomat said the Saudi monarch's attitude was "an insult which shows the Saudis in an extremely bad light."

"By travelling to Saudi Arabia, King Husayn held out his hand to King Fahd who turned it down, contrary to the traditions laid down for a head of state and Arab customs," another diplomat said.

King Husayn's last visit came just two weeks before the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait on August 2, 1990.

Amman-Riyadh ties soured amid Saudi charges that Jordan backed Iraqi President Saddam Husayn during the Gulf crisis. King Husayn also opposed the US-led military campaign which expelled Iraq from Kuwait in February 1991.

A Mecca encounter during Ramadan with King Fahd, the custodian of Islam's holiest sites in western Saudi Arabia, was expected to clear the way for a normalization, Arab diplomats said.

Since the Gulf war, Amman has sought to resume normal contacts with Riyadh, which had punished Jordan by halting its annual financial aid of 200 million dollars and oil shipments, and closing its markets to Jordanian goods.

After King Fahd sent his Washington ambassador to see King Husayn recovering from an operation in a US hospital in August 1992, Jordan's monarch moved swiftly to announce that their misunderstanding was almost over.

But the Saudis—whose Amman ambassador has yet to return to his post after having been recalled in October 1990—insist on a public apology from Jordan for its stand on the Gulf crisis, a demand which King Husayn has criticized.

An Arab diplomat pointed out that PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat, who was also snubbed for three years because of his pro-Iraqi sympathies, managed to meet King Fahd during a similar pilgrimage to Mecca in January.

But the start of a Palestinian-Saudi normalization only came after PLO officials made their apologies to Riyadh, which before the Gulf crisis was a key financial backer with its oil wealth.

For Jordan, ties with Saudi Arabia have traditionally been complicated because of old rivalries between the two ruling families.

While King Fahd is custodian of Mecca and Medina, King Husayn is a grandson of the Sharif of Mecca, Husayn, who was chased out of the Hejaz in the 1920s by the Sa'uds after his Hashemi family had ruled in Mecca since the 11th century.

Only last month, Amman brokered a peace deal to resolve the political crisis in Yemen, a country which Riyadh considers to be in its sphere of influence.

Yemen

Statement Notes 'Positive' Moves of Military Units

JN0903211694 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2012 GMT 9 Mar 94

[Text] The Higher Military Committee held a meeting in Sanaa today and discussed the results of the work of the military subcommittees, which are overseeing the return of the military units to their permanent camps before the recent crisis. The committee then issued the following statement:

The Higher Military Committee is pleased to announce to the brother citizens that the military commands' response to the committee's decision was very positive. The military units completed their withdrawal from the Ta'izz, Lahij, Ibb, Bab El Mandeb, Ma'rib, Shabwah, and Abyan Governorates. The withdrawal of units toward al-Bayda' and Mukayris also began last night. The return of the units to their previous positions is expected to be completed within the next 24 hours.

The Higher Military Committee, while stressing that the spirit of accord, the atmosphere of detente, and the eagerness to maintain the unity of the Armed Forces have prevailed in the circles of all the sons of the Armed Forces, appeals to the political leaders and the military commanders to preserve these achievements, which have satisfied the citizens, and to work to move to the second stage to apply the provisions of the accord document pertaining to the Armed Forces.

On this occasion, the Military Committee thanks the political leadership, the military commanders, and the sons of the Armed Forces for their cooperation and their response to the committee out of their national sense and their eagerness to maintain the safety and unity of the dear Yemeni soil. Blessed 'Id and many happy returns.

YSP Proposes Two Options for Resolving Crisis

PM0803170394 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 8 Mar 94 pp 1, 4

[Report by 'Abdallah Hammudah: "Socialist Party Rejects Federation and Offers One of Two Options: Document or Partition"]

[Excerpt] London—Yemeni sources have emphasized that the current position of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] on ways of resolving the political crisis threatening the unity of the two parts of Yemen can be summed up in two options. The first is that the General People's Congress [GPC] and the Yemeni Reform Grouping [YRG], the two northern partners in the ruling coalition, implement the Pledge and Accord Document in accordance with the interpretation and the measures agreed on by the YSP and the opposition, regarding which the GPC and the YRG still have some reservations or objections; or, that there be a return to the situation obtaining prior to 22 May 1990 and an announcement of the end of the unity experiment.

The sources said that Brigadier General Mujahid Abu-Shawarib, deputy prime minister for internal affairs and member of the Political Forces' Dialogue Committee, which drafted the Pledge and Accord Document, late last month offered the YSP leadership the federation option as a way out of the crisis, along the same lines suggested last October by Salim Salih Muhammad, YSP assistant secretary general and Presidential Council member, but the party's Political Bureau rejected that option on the grounds that that suggestion had been overtaken by the recent military confrontations in Abyan and H rft Sufyan. [passage omitted]

YSP Proposes 'Confederation' Formula

PM0903123094 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 9 Mar 94 pp 1, 4

[Report by Faysal Makram and Iqbal 'Abdallah: "Sinan Abu-Lahhum Meets With 'Abd-al-Majid, Warns Of 'New Somalia;' Yemeni Socialist Party Proposes Confederation"]

[Excerpt] Sanaa, Aden, Cairo, AL-HAYAH—Sources close to the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] yesterday changed tack, proposing a confederation formula to extricate the country from the political crisis it is experiencing and end the prevailing state of political and military tension.

The YSP circles' proposal, which reflects the depth of the crisis the united Yemeni state is experiencing, comes while circles close to the YSP have begun to believe that "the dialogue through the barrel of a gun" which began 21 February has made the federation proposal appear to have been overtaken by events.

In Cairo, Shaykh Sinan Abu-Lahhum, member of the Yemeni Consultative Council and member of the Political Forces Dialogue Committee—who had issued a joint statement with Brigadier Mujahid Abu-Shawarib, deputy prime minister, warning of secession in Yemen—urged Yemeni leaders to abandon their differences and achieve reconciliation. He warned of the possibility of Yemen turning into a new Somalia and the south separating from the north. He said: "That would not solve the problem, but, rather, would bring ruin to the country."

Abu-Lahhum attributed King Husayn's failure to achieve reconciliation to "Yemeni leaders' intransigence

and failure to apply reason and reach an understanding." He described what is happening as "madness and a frightening nightmare." He expressed his fear that "the gap among Yemenis might widen and result in undermining national unity."

Following a meeting with Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, secretary general of the Arab League, yesterday, he said: "The League is making extensive endeavors to secure a way out of the current crisis. This is in addition to numerous Arab mediations." He noted that he is going to meet with President Husni Mubarak "to ask him to intensify Egyptian efforts and reinforce Egypt's role in ending Yemeni disputes."

He denied that he had asked the secretary general to dispatch a Arab force to disengage northern and southern forces. He stressed that what Yemen needs is living consciences, not forces. "And mediations do not require military forces, but sincere intentions." He said that recent military clashes "have left a deep wound in Yemeni hearts." He pointed out that the "cause of the deterioration in conditions is officials' failure to implement the Pledge and Accord Document signed in the Jordanian capital recently."

In Sanaa, political and military sources spoke yesterday about the Yemeni-Jordanian-Omani committee's failure to complete the process of withdrawing military units from what used to be known as the "fringes" area before unity, and to return these units to their positions before the current crisis, which began on 19 August last year. [passage omitted]

Presidential Council Member Receives League Team

JN0803131794 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 8 Mar 94

[Text] Presidential Council member brother 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani yesterday evening received an Arab League delegation led by Staff Major General Muhammad Sa'id Bayraqdar, assistant secretary general and head of the League's General Department for Military Affairs. This delegation is currently visiting our country to acquaint itself with our country's political developments and follow up fraternal Arab efforts to resolve the problems and end the differences resulting from these developments.

Staff Maj. Gen. Bayraqdar conveyed the greetings of Arab League Secretary General brother 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid for the political leadership in our country. He also conveyed the eagerness of both 'Abd-al-Majid and the Arab League to make all possible efforts in order to halt the repercussions of the current political crisis and tackle it within the framework of caring for Yemeni unity as an important Arab achievement representing Arab hopes for restoring Arab solidarity and unity, particularly under the current circumstances the Arab nation is experiencing and under which Arab solidarity is suffering from weakness and collapse.

Bayraqdar stressed that the Arab League and his delegation are ready to extend aid and assistance and make the efforts required to contribute to resolving the political crisis and abating its repercussions, with the aim of preserving Yemeni unity and avoiding these repercussions.

For his part, brother 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani expressed our country's gratitude and appreciation for the Arab League secretary general and the head and members of this delegation for their sincere fraternal efforts to follow up political developments and repercussions resulting from the political crisis, and for their readiness to contribute to resolving this crisis. He thanked the delegation members for their sincere fraternal sentiments and their great pan-Arab care for safeguarding the Yemeni unity.

The brother Presidential Council member and the delegation reviewed aspects and factors of these developments and efforts that continue to be made in order to resolve the political crisis and end its repercussions in a way that guarantees the preservation of Yemeni unity and its gains, and tackles issues that led to these repercussions, in a spirit of collective responsibility by all national political forces and through complete care for the homeland's unity, by means of complete commitment to implementing all articles of the document of pledge and accord signed in Amman on 10 Ramadan [20 February].

The brother Presidential Council member said: We are ready for full cooperation with the Arab League's efforts and other sincere fraternal efforts in order to resolve the political crisis and remove its repercussions in a way that will safeguard Yemen's unity and stability.

The meeting was attended by Staff Brigadier General 'Abd-al-Malik al-Sayyali, chief of the general staff; His Excellency Ambassador Mahyub Mahyubi, adviser to the Arab League secretary general and head of the General Department for Arab Affairs; His Excellency Dr. Amin Sa'ati, member of the League's General Department for Arab Affairs; and minister plenipotentiary Yahya 'Ali al-Shami, deputy head of the Arab Homeland Department at the Yemeni Foreign Ministry.

INC Says Saddam Planning Invasion of Kurdistan

AU0903194094 Vienna DER STANDARD in German 5-6 Mar 94 p3

[Report by correspondent Alan George]

[Text] Iraqi leader Saddam Husayn is said to be planning a new military strike against Kurdish territories in the north of the country and to have deployed armored units at various points on the contact line with the Kurdish region in the past few days. This was reported by the Iraqi National Congress (INC), an umbrella organization of various opposition groups, in London on Friday [4 March].

Such a military strike would be a direct challenge to the West, which has undertaken to protect the Kurdish region. The area is being monitored by U.S., British, and French aircraft.

According to INC's information, in talks with senior military officials in the northern Iraqi city of Mosul on 23 February, Saddam announced the invasion of the Kurdish territory for early March. In a televised speech in January, the head of state said that he was intending to spend the Islamic (Id al-Fitr) feast in Kurdistan. The feast falls on 11 March.

The British Ministry of Foreign Affairs has confirmed the troop movements in Iraq. A spokesman said in London: "It would be extremely unwise of Saddam to take such action."

Kurdish Official: Baghdad Massing Troops

NC1003093294 Paris AFP in English 0907 GMT 10 Mar 94

[Text] Irbil, Iraq, March 10 (AFP)—Iraq is massing troops and militia allies along the frontlines with the Kurds who control the north of the country, a Kurdish defence official said Thursday [10 March].

Jabbar Firman told AFP that the build-up of army troops and artillery began three days earlier south of the 36th parallel, above which the Gulf war allies enforce a "no-fly zone" to keep out Iraqi aircraft.

Further north, tribal militias are being deployed in strength near Irbil, which is home to 800,000 people and where the Iraqi Kurds have their capital, said Firman, who is in charge of Kurdish military affairs.

He gave no details on the build-up.

"In the no-fly zone, Iraq would not dare to attack the Kurdish-controlled region with its official army, therefore it is sending the militias," he said.

Firman charged that Iraq was planning an attack to distract public attention from the country's economic crisis, brought on by the UN embargo in place since the 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

The Kurds have controlled a large chunk of northern Iraq, under the allied security umbrella, since an uprising following the 1991 Gulf war which evicted Iraqi troops from Kuwait.

An Iraqi opposition group based in Tehran charged Wednesday that the army had launched a new offensive against Shiite Moslem villages in the marshlands of southern Iraq.

Army Reportedly Launches Attacks in South

LD0903201394 Tehran IRNA in English 1956 GMT 9 Mar 94

[Text] Dezful, Khuzestan Prov., March 9, IRNA—The Iraqi Army has killed scores of inhabitants of the southern marshlands and destroyed at least 167 houses in the area in fresh attack, sources close to the Iraqi mujahidin said here today. They said the Iraqi Army had also levelled 15 more houses in the area between al-Amara and Basra. Two Iraqi students were killed at a school in the area as a result of the attack, they added.

The sources said the Iraqi regime deployed its divisions 18 and 19, armoured division six and mechanized division 25 as well as its elite forces and even the riot police for the attack.

SAIRI Appeals to UN To End Attack

LD0903202594 Kuwait KSC Television in Arabic 1900 GMT 9 Mar 94

[Text] Ayatollah Sayyid Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim, chairman of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI], today appealed to the United Nations to intervene immediately to stop the large-scale attack which massive forces belonging to the Iraqi regime have been launching on al-Ahwar marshes in southern Iraq since 3 March.

Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim said that the forces of that regime were using internationally banned napalm incendiary bombs in their attacks on the people of the marshes.

The Iraqi opposition leader pointed out that four armored and infantry divisions were taking part in this attack supported by forces from the Republican Guard for intervention whenever it was necessary.

Baqir al-Hakim called on the United Nations to put pressure on the Iraqi regime to implement the UN Security Council's resolution No. 688 which stipulates stopping the policy of repression against the civilian population in southern Iraq.

Reports coming from inside Iraq mentioned that tens of civilians were killed or wounded in these operations, while hundreds of others ran away into the marshes fleeing the bombardment of the Iraqi regime's forces.

Pro-Saddam Kurdish Officials Reaffirm Loyalty

JN0903170794 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1530 GMT 9 Mar 94

[Text] Baha'-al-Din Ahmad, speaker of the Legislative Council of the Kurdistan Autonomous Region, and Ja'far 'Abd-al-Karim al-Barzanji, chairman of the Executive Council of the Kurdistan Autonomous Region, have commended the great and prominent role leader President Saddam Husayn, the architect of autonomy, has played in reaching a just and peaceful settlement of the Kurdish issue on democratic and fair terms on the basis of the doctrine, creed, and principles upheld by the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party.

In statements to the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY on the 24th anniversary of the issuance of the historic 11 March statement, the two Kurdish officials added that settling the Kurdish issue and halting infighting in the Kurdistan region were only some of the significant accomplishments of the glorious 17-30 July revolution. They reiterated the Kurds' allegiance to the historic and unique leadership of leader President Saddam Husayn. They also reaffirmed their willingness to make sacrifices to safeguard Iraq's unity and thwart the enemies' schemes, which aim to undermine Iraq's sovereignty and national unity.

The two Kurdish officials noted that the lawlessness, instability, insecurity, anarchy, murders, and thefts currently prevailing in the Kurdistan region are cogent proof of the false claims made by archtraitors and archagents, who have accepted subservience to their foreign masters, the enemies of Iraq.

Concluding their statements, they asserted that agents and traitors will be defeated, with God's help and the determination of zealous Kurds, particularly since the zealous Kurds have always demonstrated their support for the courageous leadership of leader President Saddam Husayn.

Three Replaced in 'Kurdish Government' Reshuffle

PM0903122694 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 8 Mar 94 p4

[Report by 'Adnan Husayn: "'Kurdish Government' Reshuffle Affecting Three of Talabani's Ministers"]

[Excerpts] London—AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that the "government of the region of Kurdistan" which runs the affairs of the Kurdish areas in northern Iraq has reshuffled its portfolios and that three ministries held by members of the leadership of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK], led by Jalal Talabani, were affected.

Iraqi Kurdish sources told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT yesterday that Sa'di Ahmad Birah, the agriculture minister in the Kurdish Government, replaced Humanitarian Affairs "Minister" Muhammad Tawfiq Rahim, who left the government; that the agriculture "ministry" portfolio was given to PUK Executive Committee Member Hazim Yusufi; and that Jamal 'Abdul, former governor of al-Sulaymaniyah, replaced Shirku Biks, the former "minister" and well-known poet who resigned in December last year, as culture "minister." [passage omitted]

PUK sources have confirmed the cabinet reshuffle but denied that it had any political significance. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, some Iraqi opposition figures and groups living in the British capital have completed preparations for a week of solidarity with the Iraqi people next week with the participation of influential figures in the fields of politics, culture, and art. [passage omitted]

Reopening of 'Baby Milk Factory' Reported

JN0803151294

[Editorial Report] Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic on 2 March on page seven publishes a 1,500-word report by correspondent Khudayr 'Abbas Mahmud entitled "AL-THAWRAH Reveals a Secret About the Baby Milk Factory for the First Time." The report says the factory, which was the target of allied bombing on 21 January 1991, has been reconstructed and is now operational, producing "milk that is 100 percent Iraqi" called "Biladi" [English: my country]. The report includes an interview with the factory's chief engineer, Qays Hanna Dawud.

Asked why the factory was an allied target, Dawud says everyone in the West knew the factory was built by a French company at a cost of $35 million and was completed in 1984, "however, the foreign company failed to operate the factory to produce milk according to the required specifications. So the factory remained inactive until 1990 when attempts were made by the General Establishment for Milk Products, which is currently in charge of the factory, to find solutions to those technical problems. The French, who were among the aggressor states, knew that it was a baby milk factory."

Asked about the connection between U.S. companies and the factory, Dawud says that the U.S. "Wyath Company" was approached to modify the factory designs, that a team of experts from that company had actually visited the factory, and that an Iraqi delegation led by the late Ghassan Ibrahim, director general of the General Establishment for Milk Products, was actually in the United States on 2 August 1990 to sign a contract with the U.S. company. The contract dealt with operating the factory and using the trademark of the Wyath Company, which produces the children's powdered milk brands: "SMA" and "S-26." Dawud notes: "This secret, which has been revealed by AL-THARAH for the first time, serves as categorical proof that the Americans and the French knew that it was a factory for producing milk for children."

Asked about the damage caused to the factory, Dawud says the factory sustained 95 percent damage and that allied aircraft "made use of the information and the visit by the American delegation of six experts, who came to inspect the factory and make their technical assessments before the departure of the Iraqi delegation to the United States. This was in addition to the maps the French had."

Dawud concludes: Under orders from President Saddam Husayn, the Corporation for the Implementation of Food and Medical Projects, an affiliate of the Military Industrialization Organization, began reconstruction work on the factory on 1 April 1992. Foreign companies were contacted for assistance, but they refused to provide the equipment needed. So the teams of the Military Industrialization Organization relied on their own initiatives and skills and reconstructed the factory, which was reopened on 21 January 1993, the second anniversary of its bombing.

Saddam Chairs RCC, Ba'th Command Meeting

JN0903212094 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 9 Mar 94

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn, may God preserve him, has chaired a joint meeting of the Revolution Command Council and the Iraq Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party. Presidential Office Chief Hatim Hamdan al-'Azzawi attended.

Saddam Calls on Iraqi Women's Union

JN0903182594 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 9 Mar 94

[Text] In appreciation of glorious Iraqi women and the magnificent role they have played in the course of many long years of struggle waged by great Iraq, and to share with Iraqi women their celebrations marking the 25th anniversary of the General Union of Iraqi Women, beloved leader President Saddam Husayn, may God protect him, today called on the premises of the General Union of Iraqi Women, where he met with Mrs. Manal Yunus 'Abd-al-Razzaq, president of the General Union, and several comrade members of the union's Executive Bureau.

The president of the union briefed the president on some of the activities carried out by the union. She also reviewed some of the accomplishments the union has made since its inception 25 years ago.

Then, the gift from the glorious Iraqi women was presented to the leader president. The gift was an artwork, an Arab shield engraved in genuine Kufic calligraphy. On the shield is written the invocation: In the name of God, Most Gracious, Most Merciful. It is also engraved with the Iraqi flag and some of the statements made by the leader president about Iraqi women.

With the presentation of the union's gift, the following address was given: O most magnanimous person, and knight in times of distress, you have always been the best loyal brother. You have always demonstrated matchless compassion, care, and guidance. You have always been the strongest shield and sword defending the honor of his kinsfolk. You have never feared censure or blame. Thanks to you, and to your jihad, Iraqi women have continued to hold their heads high, and their principles pertaining to right and faith have remained unshakable. Their continued support for your blessed banner has remained the epitome of the loyalty of honest sisters to their noble brother.

Afterward, the leader president left the premises of the union. He was bidden farewell by Mrs. Manal Yunus 'Abd-al-Razzaq, comrade members of the Executive Bureau of the General Union of Iraqi Women, as well as the glorious women who happened to be on the union premises. They all demonstrated jubilation and uttered trilling cries of joy.

Ninawa Telecommunications Installations Rebuilt

JN0703120694 Baghdad INA in English 1105 GMT 7 Mar 94

[Text] Baghad, Mar 7, INA—Engineers and technicians of the Telecommunications and Post Department, Ninawa Province, have recently completed reconstruction work on the telecommunications installations hit during the US-led aggression in 1991.

Quoted by AL-THAWRAH daily head of the department, Engineer Qutaybah Muhammad Sa'id said his staff were able to reconstruct the television and broadcasting complex, Gharb Dijlah mircowave project and Abu-Tammam electronic exchange.

Iranian Stand During Gulf War Reviewed, Analyzed

JN0803171994 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 2 Mar 94 p 3

[Article by Malik Mansur: "Iranian Rulers are Treacherous Revanchists in the Service of Washington"]

[Excerpts] By the conclusion of the cease-fire on 28 February 1991 between Iraq and the coalition, Washington had already agreed with the Iranian rulers on the final touches for an Iranian role to further pursue the military chapter of this U.S.-Nato-Zionist aggression. The evil ayatollahs in Tehran had been eagerly awaiting any opportunity to take revenge on Iraq and its historic leadership for their miserable defeat in the second Iraq-Iran War. [passage omitted]

What tempted the Iranian rulers to blindly pursue their evil delusions and mean intentions was the Iraqi Army's preoccupation with the potential invasion by the allied forces. Thus, the Iranian role was to stab the Iraqi fighters in the back in a premeditated act that was motivated by hypocrisy and misguided policies. It was an act carrying all the meanings of treachery, hatred,

meanness, and cowardice, displaying a complete lack of morals or honorable values. [passage omitted]

In order to conceal their collusion with Washington, the Tehran rulers resorted to their known methods of maneuvering and cheating. They pursued a strange line showing a contradiction between the policies and stands announced over the media—which appeared neutral and opposed to the U.S. and Western military buildup and military aggression on Iraq—and the actual practices and stands of those rulers—which in substance and results harmed Iraq, especially its policies and stands, and cast aspersions about its historic leadership.

The timing of the Iranian role was important. The ayatollahs' deceptive role was to express verbal opposition to the U.S. military aggression against Iraq and at the same time turn the Iranian media into an active supporter for the propaganda and psychological warfare against Iraq and its people by casting doubts by devious means about Iraq's policy and the soundness and correctness of the stands of its historic leadership. The general tone of the Iranian media during the aggression was inciteful at times and subtle at others. [passage omitted]

Following Iraq's final victory by tearing up the chapter of treachery and treason in record time, which caused the enemies to lose their senses and balance, and the introduction of measures marked by a high degree of national responsibility, wisdom, and ability, the march of steadfastness and challenge in our country proceeded with vigor. More opportunities were given to pool the Iraqi people's inventive and creative resources for the counter-offensive of reconstructing what the aggressors had destroyed, for rebuilding life in Iraq, and for moving to the new phase of steadfastness and resistance against the blockade and the conspiratorial plans. [passage omitted]

Paper: Papal Visit Would Send 'Clear Message'

JN0903152294 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0740 GMT 9 Mar 94

[Text] Baghdad, 9 Mar (INA)—The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH says that the visit Pope John Paul II is expected to make to Iraq will be an opportunity for him to implicitly reaffirm the Christian world's rejection of U.S. imperialist and Zionist plans to wage new wars.

Commenting on statements by Iraqi Chaldean Catholic Patriarch Rufa'il Bidawid I to the effect that the Pope has promised to visit Iraq at the appropriate time, the paper today, in an article contributed by Chief Editor Salah al-Mukhtar, adds that a positive stand by the Pope now could make an effective contribution to thwarting attempts to spark such wars.

AL-JUMHURIYAH goes on to say that the neo-imperialists have chosen Iraq as a target for their vindictiveness, and as a major springboard for sparking wars designed to last hundreds of years by inflicting colossal harm that will not be forgotten by Iraq, the Arabs, or the Muslims. This harm engenders vengeance.

The paper says: Iraq is determined to shed light on the unreligious motives for this Western hostility toward the Arabs and Muslims. However, Iraq's efforts in this regard need to be supported by efforts from other camps, which the United States wants to wage the war against Iraq.

AL-JUMHURIYAH adds: The Pope can play a role in thwarting the scheme of Western imperialism. A visit by the Pope to Iraq would address a clear message to all, telling them that Christianity has nothing to do with capitalism's covetousness and criminal schemes, and that Islam and Christianity have coexisted without wars for thousands of years, and that there is no reason for this coexistence to be discontinued.

The paper asserts that a visit by the Pope would also be a message to the Iraqi people, telling them that Christians have nothing to do with their suffering, that they are sympathetic to their ordeal, and that they want to see the embargo lifted.

The paper hopes that the visit by the Pope will be made before the embargo clamped on the Iraqi people is lifted, because the timing of the visit is immensely significant. This is because the visit must encourage the countries of the Christian world to take bolder steps to lift the embargo, or push for a lifting of the embargo.

The paper concludes by noting the failure of the Bush administration to dominate the world in the name of the new world order. The paper adds that there are currently moves toward a new stratagem even more horrible and criminal than Bush's, namely, that of pushing the world into the crematorium of ethnic and religious wars in a bid to make them the bases for future conflicts.

Vatican Denies Pope To Visit

PM0803144194 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 8 Mar 94 p 7

[Report by 'Irfan Rashid: "Vatican Spokesman Tells AL-HAYAH: Pope Does Not Plan To Visit Iraq in the Near Future"]

[Excerpt] Rome—A spokesman for the Vatican has denied reports that Pope John Paul II has accepted an invitation to visit Iraq "in the near future." He said: "The pope's program does not include anything that indicates the possibility of his visiting that country."

The spokesman did not confirm whether the pope had received an invitation. He told AL-HAYAH: "At any rate, sending an invitation officially or unofficially does not necessarily mean its acceptance and inclusion in the program of the pope's religious visits." [passage omitted]

Report Details Objectives of Rabin's U.S. Visit

TA0903142694 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 9 Mar 94 p A5

[Report by political correspondent Aluf Ben]

[Excerpt] In his upcoming visit to Washington, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin will try to persuade U.S. Administration leaders to put off the enforcement of the new regulations on the use of military aid and also, in the future, allow Israel to purchase military equipment directly from U.S. firms.

Last year the Pentagon decided to ban direct military procurement through commercial channels and compel all countries receiving military aid to place their orders through U.S. Army components. The decision was made in the wake of the Rami Dotan affair in a bid to improve U.S. control over the use of aid funds.

Israel objected to the amendment of the regulations, claiming it will increase costs and complicate military procurement. Israel's supporters in Congress exerted heavy pressure and managed to put off the enforcement of the new regulations until June 1994. Rabin will now try to get another reprieve, and will ask the administration to take Israel's unique needs into consideration.

The prime minister will say Israel is prepared to make its purchases through military channels, if in special cases it is allowed to buy military equipment directly from the manufacturers.

Rabin's visit in the United States will mainly be devoted to the peace process, and security issues will not feature prominently in his meeting with President Bill Clinton. [passage omitted]

Russia's Call for 2nd Madrid Conference Rejected

TA0903202194 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 9 Mar 94

[Text] Russia is calling for the convening of a second Madrid conference to rescue the peace process in the wake of the Hebron massacre, the INTERFAX news agency, quoting Russia's Deputy Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov, reported tonight.

Our Arab affairs correspondent Ehud Ya'ari reports that the move came as a surprise, has not been coordinated with the United States, and clashes with the U.S. Administration's effort to renew the process.

Our political correspondent Gadi Sukenik reports that Jerusalem rejects the idea and stresses that only the format decided on in the original Madrid conference is the framework for negotiations.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 2000 GMT on 9 March in a similar report adds: "The Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem said in reaction that Israel rejects the proposal to reconvene the Madrid conference, because it has gone a long way in the bilateral peace talks, but adds that if Russia raises an official proposal on the matter, Israel will look into it and respond accordingly."]

Peres Interviewed by Palestinian Reporters

TA0903185994 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 9 Mar 94 pp 1, 13

[Report on interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Da'ud Kuttab in Jerusalem on 8 March]

[Excerpts] Jerusalem—Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres acknowledged that the Palestinian people's daily reality has not changed since the signing of the Declaration of Principles, but he believes that the agreement's implementation will lead to a basic change that will be felt by the ordinary citizen.

In an exclusive interview with Palestinian reporters at the Israeli Foreign Ministry, Peres said that if talks are held on the final stage, the two sides will reach more documents and papers but the situation on the ground will not change. Instead, he called for concluding the negotiations within several days and implementing the transfer of power, including the arrival of the Palestinian leadership and police force, so that they would take charge of the situation in Jericho and the Gaza Strip.

Peres said that subsequently it will be possible to negotiate over expanding the area of Palestinian control, whereby it will include all the occupied territories. Afterward, talks will begin on the final status.

In response to the journalists' questions about disarming the settlers and negotiating on settlement activity and international protection, Peres said that those steps pose complications because Rabin's government relies on a one-vote majority in the Knesset. Despite this, Peres believes that acceptance of the Gaza-Jericho plan, which he described as a first step, will lead to a tangible change among the Palestinian people.

Regarding the continuation of settlement activity and the confiscation of land, Peres vehemently denied that land confiscation was continuing except for street expansion and nature protection. When one of the journalists presented him details of land confiscation, Peres said that he would study the issue.

With regard to evacuating the settlers from Hebron, Peres said that he would state his position on this issue in the cabinet meetings, but he added that there were legal problems in terms of evacuating the settlers en masse.

In answer to a question about whether it was possible to vacate the Hebron bus station, taken over by the Israeli Army since 1980, Peres said that he would study the matter. During the meeting, which lasted more than an hour, Peres tried to persuade the journalists to defend the peace process, saying that it was the best practical means for achieving Palestinian demands and aspirations. Peres expressed understanding of the Palestinian

position's dilemma. He said that anyone who participates in a peace process will lose popularity because peace requires concessions from both parties. It is common knowledge that concessions do not increase the leadership's popularity.

Peres urged the Palestinian people to support 'Arafat despite all the difficulties. He said that the Palestinian people should be more supportive of 'Arafat, because he has given them something tangible by negotiating cleverly. Every Palestinian leader in the past failed to do this, and the Palestinian problem had remained in limbo. [passage omitted]

In answer to a question about the UN Security Council deliberations, Peres said that Israel's objection to applying the Geneva Conventions to the occupied territories stems from the fact that Jerusalem has been included in the resolution. This is opposed by Israel, because it considers Jerusalem to be part of Israel, not part of the occupied territories.

On whether a meeting between Rabin and 'Arafat was possible, Peres said that they will meet to sign the agreement and not earlier, but contacts are under way on different levels and through different channels.

Likud Faction Calls on Rabin To Quit

TA0603174694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 6 Mar 94

[Text] The Likud Knesset faction has called on Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to quit and put the question of the evacuation of Jews from Hebron before the people. Faction Chairman Moshe Qatzav told our correspondent Hayim Hecht that Rabin's willingness to include Tzomet in his cabinet is tantamount to admitting the failure of his policy. According to Qatzav, he has learned that Rabin is using Tzomet to freeze the continuation of the implementation of the Oslo agreement after the withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho.

Report Criticizes Security at Site of Massacre

TA0603061794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 6 Mar 94

[Text] The closure on the West Bank and Gaza is continuing, with Palestinians still banned from leaving for jobs inside Israel. Security sources told Qol Yisra'el it remains extremely difficult to protect the Jewish settlers living in Hebron.

Brigadier David Agmon, who investigated the Hebron massacre for the chief of staff, has confirmed that Barukh Goldstein was the only person to fire inside the Cave of the Patriarchs. His report, presented to the chief of staff at the weekend, also criticized security procedures at the site.

Compensation Agreement Reached for Hebron Victims

TA0703055394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 7 Mar 94

[Text] Finance Ministry and National Insurance Institute officials have reached agreement on compensation to the victims of the Hebron massacre. Unmarried men who were badly injured or the family of a bachelor who was killed will receive 85,000 shekels. Payments to the families of married men will range from 120,500 shekels to a maximum of 210,000 for those with six children or more. Those who suffered less severe injuries will receive lesser sums. The compensation agreement still needs to be approved by Finance Minister Shohat.

U.S. Legal Moves on Kakh, Kahana Hay Viewed

TA0603115194 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 6 Mar 94 p 7

[Report by Hayim Shibi from Washington]

[Excerpts] The Clinton administration is close to deciding to place the Kakh and Kahana Hay movements on the list of terror organizations. [passage omitted]

If indeed the U.S. Justice Department decides to place Kakh and Kahana Hay on the list of terror organizations—the very membership in which constitutes a criminal act—this would be the first time in U.S. history that Jewish organizations will be on that list, along with Arab terror organizations.

This might create a situation in which Israel Defense Forces reserve officers who, according to Kahana Hay leaders, conduct training camps for the organization members in the United States, might be listed as members of a terror organization and become a target of a criminal investigation by the FBI.

Mike Gozovsky, the Kahana Hay Movement spokesman, told our correspondent that the organization includes 8,000 members who pay annual membership fees of $36 each. A fund-raising dinner the movement organized in New York recently, was attended by some 500 people who paid $125 each.

Another serious problem that might arise if the organizations are listed with other terror organizations, would be that raising funds for them would be banned. Israeli sources in Washington view with concern the administration acceptance of the Palestinian request to hold up "fund-raising campaigns for extremists" in Israel. It is feared that a broad legal definition would create a dangerous precedent which will create difficulties for a wide range of fund- raising campaigns in the future.

It should be noted that the Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza Settlements Council, the City of Ari'el, and a series of Israeli public institutions have a regular fund-raising organ based in the United States. Americans also make donations to the belt neighborhoods around Jerusalem.

Inclusion of Local Arabs in Process Urged

TA0603141294 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 6 Mar 94 p 9

[Commentary by Avner Regev: "They Are Palestinians, Too"]

[Text] Reacting to last week's events in the Israeli Palestinian sector, Knesset Member Talib al-Sani' stated: A wide chasm has been created between the Israeli Arab population and the Jewish majority, and it is hard to see how it can be patched up anytime soon. Representing the Israeli Bedouin population, al-Sani' made it clear that the Hebron massacre was indeed a terrible thing; yet, it was the way the Israel Police and other security forces treated the Palestinian citizens of Israel, who expressed their reaction to the massacre, which made many of the Arab leaders think that they do not have equal rights as citizens. They will not accept the fact that there is different treatment of Jewish and Arab demonstrators. If the sights in the field express a reality, if indeed they expressed the way the Jewish majority really feels toward the Palestinian minority, then there seems to be no chance of holding a dialogue that would lead to coexistence in the foreseeable future.

The killing by police gunfire of a resident of the Bedouin village of Rahat during demonstration there last week started a fire that does not seem extinguishable in the near future. The reactions by the Palestinian citizens of Israel and the counter reactions by the security forces created a situation which casts doubt on the possibility of attaining an arrangement in the future that would satisfy the demands of one side.

Since the Hebron massacre, the leaders of the Arab public have been articulating the PLO negotiating demands, calling on Israel to accept them. For example, they call for dismantling settlements, disarming settlers, stating that the settlements and peace cannot coexist. The fact that the Negev Bedouin—who until recently have not regarded themselves part of the Palestinian nation—hoisted PLO flags, is an indication of a sweeping phenomena which points to a changing reality, currently forming before our eyes.

We have seen such flags hoisted in the Galilee and the Triangle, but the sights from the Negev, including the reports that stones were hurled at cars on the Beersheba-'Arad highway, make the Jewish population feel that the security situation has deteriorated—and not only in the territories, but inside the Greed Line.

At a seminar of police commanders, convened last week to discuss aspects of the peace negotiations, the Hebron massacre was placed on the agenda. To the amazement of many of those present, some 25 percent of the officers expressed some degree of support for or understanding of the Hebron murder. Expressions that do not become police commanders were heard there, and the silent majority did not react with anger.

If the police commanders' anger in view of the situation in the territories is understandable at all, the way they reacted to the events in the Israeli Palestinian sector can probably explain their conduct as everyday law and order observers. Hence it is easy to sympathize with Knesset Member al-Sani's remarks regarding the double standard which prevails in Israel with regard to its Jewish and Arab citizens.

The continuation of the acts of protest by the Arab public here, in fact, reveals three levels of reaction:

One expresses pain over the Hebron massacre, in which worshipers were murdered during the fast of Ramadan while in a holy mosque, along with real sympathy for their brothers in the territories.

On a second level, Israeli Arabs express growing anxiety about acts carried out in the territories which, they believe, might be repeated against them, mentioning the events of Land Day and the Kafr Qasim massacre in the same context. They mainly fear that the Israeli reaction was not an isolated event, rather that it is the result of a policy which might make them change their place of residence.

Some Israeli Arab leaders believe that, in parallel with the transfer of settlers from the territories inside the Green Line, some of them might find themselves outside Israel's boundaries—because of territorial changes or other reasons.

On a third level, the Israeli Arabs point at their distress over poverty and neglect in their sector, which causes frustration which, in turn, drags them to support a fundamentalist religious element which contains nationalistic elements in it. The combination of religion and nationalism breeds extremism, and not only in Islam. The Jewish group residing in Hebron is an example of this, even if this group does not suffer from poverty and neglect.

Israeli Palestinians and Jews now face a difficult dilemma. Having been repressed for years, the feelings of hostility and rage came bursting out, creating a new reality. The Oslo agreement, in which Israel recognized the PLO as the representative of the Palestinian people, does not stipulate whether or not the PLO also represents the Israeli and Jordanian Palestinians.

Israeli Arabs today regard themselves part of the Palestinian nation. Feeling rejected by the Jewish majority in Israel—as was seen last week—they might turn to the PLO for political asylum. For its part, the PLO will not hesitate to accept them. The leaders of Israel will then face a problem. It is possible that the Israeli Arabs will be party to comprehensive Middle East peace negotiations in which the Green Line will no longer be sacred.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, who is preoccupied with the political process, must take some time to formulate a comprehensive policy on the Israeli-Arab conflict. It could be assumed that it will be difficult to continue with

the system of making interim arrangements to bring about short spells of quiet. Because the Israeli Arabs are on the political agenda today, he will have to listen to more voices than he has so far.

Data Issued on Law Enforcement Against Settlers

TA0903120394 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 9 Mar 94 p 1

[Report by Sha'ul Rehavi]

[Text] A new report by the Betzelem Organization regarding law enforcement on settlers in the territories states, among other things, that the law enforcement authorities and the courts tend to be charitable when dealing with Jewish settlers who caused the death of Palestinians. The report, drafted by Eytan Palner, will be published next week.

According to Betzelem, from the beginning of the intifadah until the Hebron massacre, there were 62 incidents of Palestinian deaths caused by settlers in the territories. The report provides the following breakdown: 15 cases in 1988; 17 in 1989; nine in 1990; six in 1991; 1 in 1992; and 14 in 1993.

During the same period, 13 settlers trials have been completed. Only one ended with the settler being convicted of murder, and this case is currently being appealed to the Supreme Court. In the other trials, the courts ruled causing death by negligence (6), manslaughter (1), or rioting (1), issued a sentence of admission to a psychiatric hospital (one person charged with two killings), and two settlers were acquitted.

It is worth noting that in his testimony before the commission of inquiry into the Hebron massacre yesterday, Central Command Commander Dani Yatom said that, as far as he can recall, there were one or two incidents in which settlers killed Palestinians over the past several years, and only one case was brought to trial.

Twelve Palestinians Wounded in Territories' Clashes

TA0603190794 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 6 Mar 94

[Text] Twelve Palestinians were wounded today in violent clashes with Israel Defense Forces soldiers throughout the territories. In the Jabalyah refugee camp, dozens of youngsters threw stones at soldiers. Palestinian sources in the Gaza Strip reported that three demonstrators were wounded by the soldiers' gunfire.

A general strike, called by Islamic Jihad, was observed today in the territories.

A quiet demonstration was staged today in the Christian town of Bayt Sahur, near Bethlehem, to protest the massacre at the Cave of the Patriarchs. When the demonstration ended, several youngsters set tires on fire and threw stones at soldiers.

Soldiers Kill 2 'Terrorists' at Gaza Checkpoint

TA0803060194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 8 Mar 94

[Text] Two wanted terrorists were killed a short while south of the Erez checkpoint. The two men were driving in a car aroused the suspicion of soldiers at the checkpoint. After the driver ignored the soldiers' orders to halt the troops fired and killed two of the car's passengers. It was subsequently learned that the two men had been wanted fugitives. This was reported by our correspondent Nisim Qeynan.

Police Arrest 2 Fugitive 'Right-Wing Extremists'

TA0803062094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0600 GMT 8 Mar 94

[Text] Another two right-wing extremists in the territories were arrested last night. Kakh spokesman No'am Federman, whom the authorities have decided to place under administrative detention, was captured hiding in a Jerusalem apartment. David Axelrod, the spokesman for the Kahana Hay group, was arrested in the Samaria settlement of Tapuah after refusing to turn in his IDF-[Israel Defense Forces] issued weapon. He is also refusing to say where the weapon is hidden.

The police are continuing to search for Barukh Marzel and Ben-Tziyon Gobstein. This was reported by our correspondents Aviv Bushinsky and Gil Litman.

Hamas Squad, Rioters Arrested in East Jerusalem

TA0803180594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 8 Mar 94

[Text] Last week the Jerusalem District police arrested three East Jerusalem Arabs affiliated with Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]. The three had planned to stab Jews and stage a big terror attack in downtown Jerusalem. Our police affairs correspondent Aviv Bushinsky reports that the three admitted they had planned to stab a settler, a policeman, or a soldier and that they had thrown stones at policemen and worshipers at the Western Wall. The police investigation revealed that 24-year old Jamal Basti and his two cohorts, whose names were banned from publication, had planned to steal an Israeli car and use it to smuggle arms out of Tulkarm in order to stage a terror attack in Israel. The Jerusalem Magistrates Court remanded the three in custody until the end of legal proceedings.

Update on 8 Mar Situation in Territories, Golan Heights

TA0903123294

[Editorial Report] Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 9 March publishes a report on page A4 by Eytan Rabin which says: "Several incidents took place in the territories yesterday. Palestinian sources reported that seven Palestinians were injured in the Gaza Strip" while "the Palestinian sources also reported that one person was

wounded during stone-throwing incidents in Ramallah." The report adds that a resident of the al-Burayj refugee camp "was injured yesterday by police gunfire when he tried to avoid a police roadblock" in the Gaza Strip.

Another report by Shlomo Dror and Gabi Zohar on page A5 of the same HA'ARETZ issue adds that "Palestinian sources reported that 20 people were injured" in riots in Jerusalem yesterday, "but East Jerusalem hospitals reported that only several people came in for treatment and were discharged later." According to the report, "police sources maintain that external elements have been causing agitation in Jerusalem. Last week, messages were sent to local leaders of Fatah, rejectionist front organizations, and religious organizations saying that 'the eyes of the world are currently on Jerusalem, which is why riots there are to be encouraged.'"

The report goes on to say that "several hundred Golan Druze yesterday staged demonstrations marking the Syrian revolution day and the Ba'th Party coming to power. The demonstrations ended quietly, and no arrests were made" as the police "avoided entering the villages and clashing with the demonstrators."

SHAS To Return To Government 'Within 10 Days'

TA0603190594 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 6 Mar 94

[Excerpts] SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] sources said today that the faction will return to the government within 10 days. According to these sources, the prime minister promised Rabbi 'Ovadya Yosef to fulfill SHAS' demands. [passage omitted]

A meeting between Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Knesset Members Arye Der'i and Rafi Edri ended a short time ago at the prime minister's bureau. Our party affairs correspondent reports that SHAS' return to the coalition within the next few days, even before the prime minister's departure for the United States, was conclusively agreed on at the meeting.

Tzomet Renews NRP, Agudat Yisra'el Alliance

TA0803163094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 8 Mar 94

[Text] Today Tzomet leader Refa'el Eytan announced the renewal of the alliance between Tzomet and the National Religious Party [NRP] and Agudat Yisra'el in order to set up an alternative bloc to Meretz. The block consists of 15 Knesset members. Eytan told our party affairs correspondent Shmu'el Tal that if the prime minister does not pick up the gauntlet and include it in the coalition, this bloc will act against the government. He added that as part of the renewal of the alliance, the parties decided on joint activities.

Ministry Announces Accords on Visa Exemptions

TA0803173394 Jerusalem GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE in English 8 Mar 94

[Issued by the Interior Ministry through spokesman Tova Elinson]

[Text] From the beginning of this month, Israeli citizens are exempt from the requirement to obtain entry visas to France; thus, the French Government's unilateral restriction is cancelled.

Similarly, Israel has signed mutual visa exemption agreements with the governments of Argentina, Hungary, Slovenia, Spain, and Portugal.

Official Reaction Split on King's Saudi Visit

JN1003103594 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 10 Mar 94 p 1,5

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter Nirmin Murad]

[Text] Amman—Jordanian official reaction differed over His Majesty King Husayn's return from Saudi Arabia at dawn Wednesday [9 March] without holding an expected meeting with Saudi King Fahd to mend fences after three years of strained ties.

Reactions here varied from resigned pragmatism to anger and disappointment that an opportunity to reconciliate Arab ranks after the Gulf war was not made use of.

The King, who was officially reported to be going to Mecca and Medina on the holiest day of Ramadan to perform 'Umra, returned to Amman at 02:00 a.m. Wednesday morning.

Officials have been careful not to play up the visit's political value and stressed the King's wish to be at the Prophet's burial place in Medina on Laylat al-Qadr—the night of destiny—which, according to Islam, is the night when the skies are opened to receive worshippers' prayers.

Privately, however, politicians and anaylsts had expressed hope that the visit would be an opportunity to break the deadlock in relations between Jordan and Saudi Arabia which resulted from the 1990 Gulf crisis.

A well-placed source told the JORDAN TIMES that King Husayn was aware that his trip to Mecca and Medina was to be a "purely spiritual visit."

The source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said no political significance or hopes should have been attached to this short trip except that a "psychological barier" had been removed with the King's insistence on the visit despite continued tension in political relations between him and the Saudi monarch.

"The King's insistence on performing 'Umra was a duty he felt as a Muslim," the source said adding that "this was a religious trip and not a political one... there should be no disappointment."

"A psychological barrier, if one is to think politically, has definitely been removed," the source said, explaining that while King Husayn had previously stayed away from the Islamic holy shrines because of the political situation between the two countries "he was able to break that barrier" with Tuesday's trip.

But the source conceded that had the two kings been able to meet and resolve some of their differences "it would have been differences "it would have been perfect."

However, other officials, who also acknowledge that the king had no scheduled meeting with the Saudi monarch before he left for 'Umra, did not hide their disappointment.

"The attitude by the Saudis was definitely negative and not conducive to reconciliation," said a senior official.

"When interests of states are at risk, top state officials should rise above personal disputes," he added.

Western diplomats here concur with the disappointed officials. Analysts describe the Saudi decision as "counter productive."

News agencies quoted Saudi diplomats as saying that while they had been told by Jordanian officials that there was no scheduled meeting between the two monarchs, "the royal court only informed us that the King wanted to perform 'Umra," a senior Saudi diplomat, who refused to be identified, was quoted as saying by the AP. "There was no request for any high-level meetings."

A source close to the palace said there was no attempt by the Saudis to make any high-level contact with the King or any member of his delegation.

"We are very disappointed," said the source. "The King was reaching out in reconciliation but King Fahd did not respond."

Although neither Jordan nor Saudi Arabia officially confirmed a reconciliation meeting, official sources had privately said that the two kings were to meet Tuesday for the first time since the outbreak of the Gulf crisis in 1990.

Relations between the two kingdoms soured after Iraq invaded Kuwait in Aug. 1990 when Jordan refused to join Saudi-based U.S.-led multinational forces that drove Iraq out of Kuwait.

Jordan, at the time, declared that while it condemned Iraq's takeover of its smaller neighbour Kuwait it felt that the problem had to be contained within Arab ranks.

King Husayn conducted a shuttle diplomacy between Iraq and Egypt immediately after the invasion, trying to withhold an Arab League condemnation of Iraq with Iraqi leadership promises that he was ready to withdraw from Kuwait.

His attempts to contain the problem within Arab ranks, however, failed when the Arab League voted to condemn Iraq despite earlier promises to withhold the decision.

Saudi Arabia, enraged by the Jordanian position, responded by cutting off much-needed economic aid to Jordan and discontinued its fuel supplies to the country.

Relations suffered a serious setback and diplomatic missions between the two countries have operated with minimum staff since that time.

Officials here hoped that a meeting between the two monarchs would have turned a new page in bilateral relations.

"The Saudis had told us that the King was welcome to perform the 'Umra but that there was to be no scheduled meeting with King Fahd," a senior official said.

"Yet we were hopeful that this meeting would be arranged by the time King Husayn arrived in Saudi Arabia," the senior official added.

Analysts believed that King Fahd's decision to meet Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat and Yemeni leader 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih was an "encouraging" sign that the Saudi leadership would also move to normalise relations with Jordan. The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Yemen adopted a similar position to that of Jordan after the Aug. 2 Invasion.

Amman's ties with most of the Gulf states, except Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, have improved especially with Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and Oman.

Officially, Jordan was careful not to raise hopes by stressing that the King's visit on Tuesday was for purely religious reasons but sources had also revealed that an advance team from the palace was sent a week before the King's trip to arrange for the meeting.

King Fahd normally grants courtesy audiences to most heads of state visiting his country on pilgrimage.

Some analysts here now expect relations between Jordan and Saudi Arabia to worsen after King Fahd's "rebuff."

"At best Jordan will try to contain the problem," said one analysts. "But the King will not try such a gesture again. He has gone out of his way."

Other analysts, however, disagree and say that there were no high expectations of reconciliation at this time and that things will just have to "take their own pace."

King's Visit Viewed

JN0903142194 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 9 Mar 94

[Text] Jordan's King Husayn returned to Amman today after performing the minor pilgrimage in Mecca. Attention has been drawn to the fact that Saudi King Fahd refrained from receiving King Husayn, who visited Saudi Arabia for the first time for four years. Our correspondent in Amman, Randah Habib, has this report on the interpretations heard in Amman today on this lost opportunity to normalize relations between Amman and Riyadh:

[Begin Randah Habib recording] The meeting, which did not take place between Jordan's King Husayn and Saudi King Fahd during the former's visit to Mecca, echoed Saudi Arabia's refusal to normalize its relations with Jordan—relations that deteriorated during the Gulf crisis. The Jordanian officials, however, emphasize that King Husayn's visit was confined to performing the minor pilgrimage in a holy place that is open to all Muslims and that Jordan has not requested a meeting with any party. Nevertheless, Amman, according to the same officials, would have appreciated some cordial gesture by the Saudis.

Diplomats in Jordan had expected a Saudi-Jordanian summit during the king's visit, the first in about four years. A Western diplomat today said the failure to hold a summit was considered an insult, which is not characteristic of Arab tradition, nor is it common for a head of state. He described King Husayn's visit as an outstretched hand, extended to shake the hand of the Saudis. [end recording]

Prosecutor Interrogating 30 Defendants on Bombings

JN0503093894 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 5 Mar 94 pp 1, 18

[By Nayif al-Ma'ani]

[Text] The State Security Court's public prosecutor has begun to interrogate 30 defendants in connection with the recent bombings in Amman and al-Zarqa' as a prelude to trying them before the State Security Court soon.

SAWT AL-SHA'B has learned that preliminary investigations have shown that these defendants received aid from a foreign country and were trained in the use of weapons in Afghanistan. They planned to carry out acts of sabotage in the Kingdom in order to destabilize the country and obstruct Jordan's democratic march.

The public prosecutor accused all defendants of possessing and using explosives and automatic weapons and joining an illegal organization. It is noteworthy that the competent security organs recently confiscated some weapons and explosives in the possession of these defendants.

Islamic Front, Arab Party Pledge To Foil Normalization

JN0603095394 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic 6 Mar 94 p 2

[Text] The leaders of the Islamic Action Front and the Pan-Arab Action Front Party issued a joint statement yesterday unifying their positions on promoting common action to face the imperialist-Zionist onslaught and crystallize a plan to set up an Arab and Islamic front.

The two parties pledged to work together to foil all policies and programs promoting capitulation, particularly since these policies are hostile to the the Arab nation's and the Islamic people's right to independence, to a decent life, and to struggle to defeat the aggression that targets the nation's existence and honor.

The two parties also asserted the need to unify all national, pan-Arab, and Islamic forces and mobilize all the resources of the masses of our nation in the Arab and Islamic arenas to oppose all forms of capitulation and normalization.

They decided to form a joint committee to devise a mechanism of action, care for the affairs of citizens, and work to safeguard national unity and enhance cohesion between the sons of the homeland.

IAF Deputies Demand Release of 'Activists'

JN0903084694 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 9 Mar 94 p 3

["Special to the JORDAN TIMES"]

[Text] Amman—Islamic Action Front (IAF) deputies have reiterated their demand for the release of unconvicted Islamist activists arrested last month in connection with explosions in Amman and al-Zarqa'movie theatres.

"We demand the release of those who were not convicted," before the fall of 'Id al-Fitr at the beginning of next week, IAF parliamentary bloc spokesman Hamzah Mansur said Tuesday [8 March].

Nine people were injured in last month's blasts at the Rivoli theatre in Amman and Salwa movie theatre in al-Zarqa'. Informed sources had earlier linked the arrested suspects to what they called "the Afghans," which is a group of Jordanian Islamist fundamentalists who took part in the Afghan Mujahidin war against the former Soviet Union. IAF Deputy Bassam Omoush told the JORDAN TIMES that the IAF lawmakers have sent the government a memorandum in which they requested the release of the Islamist suspects but have received "no response yet."

Mr. Mansur said that "massive arrests" were made in connection with the explosions, and those not convicted should be released to ensure justice and freedom. He said he "fully" supported the punishment of individuals who are proven gilty of involvement in "the crime," but added that justice should be carried out towards those innocent of the charges brought against them.

A weekly tabloid Tuesday quoted IAF Deputy Muhammad 'Uwaydah as saying that he had witnessed the arrest of the IAF secretariat "despite the fact that the arrest warrant did not have the secretariat's name on it."

AL-BILAD weekly also quoted Mr. 'Uwaydah as claiming that political parties were being "harassed by security forces" and that "democracy is being crippled by these random arrests."

The tabloid quoted an unnamed senior member of the Muslim Brotherhood Movement as saying that Islamists were targets of "rumours and traps which are the making of our Jewish enemies, their agents and collaborators."

According to AL-BILAD, the brotherhood official rejected accusations that the government was trying to "harm the Islamists reputation."

"His Majesty King Husayn spent his life calling for Arab and Muslim unity. (The King's) awareness and political wisdom are enough reason for us not to believe" that the government is spreading rumours against the Islamists, the paper quoted the brotherhood leader as saying.

IAF deputies are awaiting the return of Prime Minister 'Abd al-Salam al-Majali from his trip to Saudi Arabia to perform 'Umra, to "remind" the government of the issue, said Mr. Mansur.

Differences in IAF 'Openly,' 'Officially' Erupt

PM0703151794 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 4 Mar 94 p4

[Text] Amman, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Differences have openly and officially erupted within the Islamic Action Front [IAF] in Jordan after a law suit was filed and a reply to it by three deputies was released in Amman yesterday.

The law suit was filed by IAF Executive Committee Member Ziyad Abu-Ghunaymah against three IAF deputies—Hamzah Mansur, 'Abd-al-Rahim al-'Akkur, and Dr. Mahmud 'Uwaydah—who in turn issued a memorandum refuting Abu-Ghunaymah's claims.

The three deputies—Mansur, who is considered to be the IAF spokesman, is the most prominent among them—addressed a memorandum to House of Representatives Speaker Tahir al-Masri, ministers, deputies, and public opinion, repudiating the points made in Abu-Ghunaymah's complaint.

IAF sources have told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the swift expulsion of Abu-Ghunaymah from the IAF and the Muslim Brotherhood has something to do with the political conflicts between the hawks and doves of the Islamic movement and the moderate stance taken by the IAF in relation to those who took part in the parliamentary elections.

In their memorandum, the three deputies said that the disagreement was mainly over the cancellation of Abu-Ghunaymah's candidacy for a seat in the House of Representatives because he was not unanmously supported in his constituency.

In his law suit against the three deputies, Abu-Ghuanymah requested that they should be stripped of their parliamentary immunity and brought to trial on charges of slander and defamation.

The problem originally started before the parliamentary elections in Jordan when the IAF preempted a number of candidates including Abu-Ghunaymah. It later transpired that the disagreement was over admission of new IAF members who were not acceptable to the IAF leadership itself.

Informed sources say that Abu-Ghunaymah's weight and influence in the IAF and the Muslim Brotherhood should not be underestimated, particularly among the young generation eager to operate in ways not acceptable to the traditional leadership.

The sources expect these differences to affect the unity of the Muslim Brotherhood, particularly as Abu-Ghunaymah runs the Muslim Brotherhood's Islamic Hospital and comes from northern Irbid, where his family is very influential and where the Muslim Brotherhood has a following which is bound to be affected by Abu-Ghunaymah's position.

Security Incident Said To Raise 'Questions'

JN0803185594 Amman AL-SABIL in Arabic 8-14 Mar p 2

[By Yasir Abu-Hilalah]

[Text] An arrest in al-Qasr in al-Karak Governorate has raised many questions about what is wanted from Jordan, in general, and from the Islamic institutions, in particular. The following is the story of the arrest, as told by of detainee 'Abd-al-Majid al-Majali to security men in the presence of witnesses:

Last Sunday, a person from al-Zarqa' visited 'Abd-al-Majid in al-Qasr. The two knew each other. The visitor had a small carton with military hardware in it and asked 'Abd-al-Majid to guard it until he returned in a few days to carry out a commando operation against Jews from southern Jordan.

'Abd-al-Majid asked the person if the weapons were licensed. The visitor said they were not, so 'Abd-al-Majid refused to keep them inside his house but agreed to hide the carton elsewhere, It ended up in the storage room of a house facing a mosque belonging to a school for the Islamic Center Society. Working hours were over on that day and the school's guard did not know about it. The imam of the mosque refused to hide the carton inside the mosque, so 'Abd-al-Majid hid the carton inside a storage room that is separate from the house.

After that day's fast breaking meal, a group from the security forces came from Amman. They headed directly for the place where the military hardware was hidden. They searched the place and seized the carton of ammunition. Afterwards, they arrested the defendant who hid the carton. Full security procedures on the incident were taken. 'Abd-al-Majid confessed the entire story without any pressure and in the presence of many witnesses.

When the security forces made inquiries, the school's administration denied any knowledge of the incident and stressed that the mosque is a public place frequented by many people.

The incident did not answer the following questions: How did the first defendant from al-Zarqa' manage to tell the security forces where the carton of military hardware was hidden on that same day? Doesn't this indicate that he wanted to trap Islamic institutions by taking advantage of some simple people? Why weren't the weapons hidden outdoors or in one of the defendants' houses instead of being hidden in a public place? Why does this incident come now, closely following a wave of arrests on security issues?

AL-SABIL met with 'Abd-al-Jalil al-'Awawidah, administrative director of the Islamic Center Society, who commented on the incident. He said: The Islamic Center Society is a national institution that has been offering social, educational, and health services for more than 30 years. It plays a commendable role in shouldering the country's social burdens. It provides social care for thousands of orphans and needy people. It also offers educational services to thousands of the homeland's sons in the various stages of education as well as health services. He added: Throughout these years, not a single legal violation was or will be recorded against the society.

On the recent arrest, al-'Awawidah said: As for reports about a small carton containing military hardware that was found inside a kindergarten for the society in al-Karak governorate, the society is sure that the person who hid this small carton and confessed to the security forces has nothing whatsoever to do with the society. He is not a member of the society and he does not work there either. Besides, he did not consult any of the society's officials and acted on his own responsibility.

I do not rule out that he has evil intentions toward the society—which is known for its good reputation—or that some quarters pushed him to undermine the society—a society that is known for its commendable services on the level of the Kingdom. This is especially so since the room in which the carton was seized is outside the kindergarten and school and has a separate door that opens to the main road.

Just as the society's administration is concerned about providing its educational, health, and social services to all people in the kingdom, it spares no effort to keep its branches and committees as beacons of the generosity and good that are acquired from the Koran and the Sunna of God's prophet, may God's peace and blessings be upon him.

The defendant's choice of one of the society's kindergartens, which also includes a mosque, is not surprising. Any public place that offers its services to all people—such as the mosques of the Ministry of Awqaf, the schools of the Ministry of Education, and all the public institutions, whether governmental or private—could have been chosen.

The final say is for the courts, in terms of who carried out this act and whether it was done out of ignorance or ill intentions. This confirms that Islamic institutions are targeted by quarters hostile to the stability of Jordan, of which the Islamists are a pillar.

AL-SABIL also met with 'Abdallah al-Majali, the detainee's brother, who commented on the incident. He said: I have no relation to the al-Faruq Islamic Schools, although I contributed, to a large extent, in building these schools, which have a special committee linked to the Islamic Center Society. He added: The society's facilities play a pioneering role in community service.

On the recent incident for which his brother was arrested, he said: His actions were individual and he is responsible for his behavior. We do not approve of any act that harms the security of the country. He added: The security and stability of the country is the responsibility of everyone.

Muslim Brotherhood Leader on 'Slander Campaign'

JN0903173494 Amman AL-SABIL in Arabic 8-14 Mar 94 p 2

[Interview with Muhammad 'Abd-al-Rahman Khalifah, controller general of the Muslim Brotherhood, by an unidentified reporter in Amman; date not given]

[AL-SABIL] We have learned that some arrests were made within the ranks of the Muslim Brotherhood in Jordan. How true is this and what is the reason for the arrests?

[Khalifah] I do not believe there are any intentions or designs against the Muslim Brotherhood on the part of the Jordanian Government. After many years of experience, it has become evident to all unbiased and informed people that the stands of the Muslim Brotherhood, which has existed and worked in Jordan for more than half a century, are noble stands aimed at spreading a feeling of security, tranquility, and safety. This is with the exception of some minor incidents fabricated by a handful of evil people who are hired by parties hostile to security in this country.

As for the issue of arrests, it is not even worth mentioning. What we know so far is that one of the brothers in the Suwaylih branch of the Islamic Brotherhood was arrested. His name is 'Abd-al-Majid Dayah and he is an engineer. Everything I know about him is good.

Another person, named 'Abd-al-Majid Ibrahim al-Majali, is one of the brothers in the Muslim Brotherhood of al-Qasr in al-Karak. He was questioned a few months ago when he wanted to leave Jordan in order to join the ranks of the mujahidin against the communists in Afghanistan. He was held for some time on charges of carrying an amount of money to help the mujahidin in Afghanistan. At the time, he was not a regular member of the Muslim Brotherhood. He was released a few months later. I do not remember how long he was detained.

I am totally surprised by those who are trying to create intrigue and level false accusations against this Islamic organization. It has been established in Jordan for more than half a century, since the era of the late King 'Abdallah Bin-al-Husayn, through the era of the late King Talal, and now in the era of King Husayn. Each of them has known that the call of the Muslim Brotherhood continues to be that of a reliable aid to achieving tranquility and concentrating on Islamic education. It is concerned about the security of the country and our standing within one solid rank against the enemies inside and outside the country.

It has been proven through investigations that plotters against Islam and its people were behind the cinema explosions—attributed to Islamists—and the previous explosions in some liquor stores in Jabal Amman and al-Salt. Indeed, this is because the method of the Islamic message is in line with Almighty God's saying: "Invite all to the way of thy lord with wisdom and beautiful preaching." [Koranic verse] It is not the method of Islam to attack the defenseless by planting explosives in cinemas, coffee shops, and public squares, which only harms innocent women, children, and the elderly.

The fair investigation of these incidents proved the innocence of those from the Muslim Brotherhood who stood accused.

Moreover, the investigation proved to all logical people that these methods are far from the methods of the Muslim Brotherhood, which continues to criticize officials and urges them to stop all illegal practices, including the spread of immoral entertainment, and other violations that could encourage the spread of vice. We continue to search for people who will listen to these complaints and adopt a stand that limits these immoral actions.

[AL-SABIL] In light of this, do you believe that there is a conspiracy against the Muslim Brotherhood seeking to sow a rift between them and the regime in this country, in preparation, God forbid, to dealing a blow to democracy in it, particularly since the Muslim Brotherhood has an explicit stand on the peace process in the region?

[Khalifah] The Muslim Brotherhood in Jordan and in the other Arab countries have not changed their clear policy toward the Palestinian cause since the establishment of their call, although in Islam one greets another by saying: peace be upon you. We can never believe that the Jews want peace with the inhabitants of Palestine or with the other Arabs. The Muslim brothers clearly know this fact, and are also aware of the Jews wickedness, machinations, and enmity toward Islam and its followers.

From this premise, if Palestine is not purged of the filth of the Jews, it will remain a Trojan horse the colonialist countries in Europe and America will use to return colonialism to the Arab countries in general, and the Islamic countries in particular. The United States has succeeded in arming the state of the usurper Jews in Palestine and has transformed it into an aircraft carrier to subdue the Arab and Islamic countries. Conceding any part of Palestine to the Jews is banned by Islam. The

jurisprudence based on the Koran and the Sunna stipulates the following: If the enemy steps on a single inch of Muslim land, every male and female Muslim is duty bound to carry out jihad. The woman can even leave her husband's house without his permission and the slave without his master's permission. The Muslim Brotherhood and others who preach Islam will be renouncing their religion if they agree to give any part of Palestine to the Jews or the other enemies of God. Palestine and Jerusalem can be liberated only if the Arab countries unite and adopt a cohesive stand with the other Islamic countries. The Jews know this.

Therefore, any rumor or machination against the Muslim Brotherhood cannot but originate from the Jewish enemy, its agents, and its partners in Europe and the United States.

King Husayn, who has always called for Arab solidarity and Islamic cooperation, and has cautioned against and confronted all outside conspiracies against this homeland whose safety he has secured thanks to his wise policies and alertness, should not pay any attention to any slander campaign or rumor against the Islamic movement in our steadfast country. God knows intentions.

Sources Cast Doubt on U.S. Trade Center Verdicts

PM0703161094 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 6 Mar 94 p 6

[Report by Salah Ni'mat: "Jordanian Sources Cast Doubt on Trial of Defendants Suspected of Blowing Up Trade Center"]

[Excerpt] Amman—Official Jordanian sources yesterday cast doubt on the proceedings at the trial of the four defendants convicted of blowing up the World Trade Center in New York. They said that the jury's decision to convict the four defendants on all the charges leveled at them "was based on a weak argument and conflicting testimonies that do not rise to the level of legal evidence."

A source who followed the proceedings of the trial in New York told AL-HAYAH that the prosecution in the case, representing the U.S. Government, "based its argument on circumstantial evidence and a group of unlinked events" in an endeavor to convict Muhammad Salamah and Nidal 'Ayyad (Jordanians of Palestinian origin) and Mahmud Abu-Halimah and Ahmad 'Ajjaj. The source added that the prosecution "reached its conclusion about the defendants' implication by producing evidence and testimonies that do not rise to the level of irrefutable evidence." [passage omitted]

Defendant's Father Denies Son's Guilt

JN0603075694 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 6 Mar 94 p 3

[Text] The devastated father of a Jordanian convicted in the New York World Trade Centre bombing is agonising over why his son's lawyer did a volte-face in his summation, which he believes led to the conviction of not only his son but also another three defendants.

Amin Salamah, father of Mohammad Salamah (26), who, along with three others, was found guilty by a jury in a New York court Friday [4 March], is also bitter that no Jordanian organisation or individual stepped forward to help him or advise him.

He said he had obtained a three-month-valid U.S. visa in September, but did not have enough money to buy a ticket to New York to visit his son and see whether there was anything he could do to help establish his innocence.

Mr. Salamah, a retired army lieutenant who hails from Bedia village in the West Bank, works for Amman Customs Clearing Agency to provide for his family of 11 children younger to Mohammad and their mother with his Army pension and a JD 120 monthly salary.

"I did not leave a single known door unknocked," he told the JORDAN TIMES. "But there was nobody who was willing to help, including those who call themselves human rights activists and experts in law."

"They had no interest in the case, and many appeared anxious not to have anything to do with it," he said.

"My question to them is: "Isn't every accused entitled to a fair trial? And if so, was my son given a fair trial? Did any Jordanian lawyer take the slightest interest to find out whether the trial followed the due process of the law?"

Mr. Salamah, 51, who fled his village along with his family in the 1967 war, believes that neither his son nor any of the other three is guilty, and that Israeli agents seeking to distort the image of Arabs and Muslims had a hand in the affair and entrapped the accused in the case.

"My instinct and conscience tells me there is much more to the entire affair than we have been told," he said, adding that the summation of his son's lawyer, Richard Precht, was the most damaging element that led to the guilty verdict.

"Throughout the trial, the lawyer was very good and made a very good case of Mohammad's defence. But, for some unknown reasons, he took a complete turn in the last minute," said Mr. Salameh, who lives in Zarqa.

"Perhaps he was coerced, pressured or forced into doing that," he said. "But it does not change the fact that my son and three others now face life in prison."

He was referring to Mr. Precht's closing argument that Mohammad Salamah was an unwitting victim of

another defendant who trapped him into taking part in the Feb. 26 explosion at the twin-towers. The blast killed six people and injured more than 1,000.

Describing Ramzi Yusuf, an accused who remains at large, as an "evil genuis," Mr. Precht asserted that Mohammad Salamah was duped by Mr. Yusuf. "Mohammad Salamah was terribly misled, terribly manipulated... by a person who came into this country with a single mission, to destroy American targets," Mr. Precht told the court on Feb. 17.

Mr. Precht was the only defence lawer who presented such an argument which implied that there was a bomb plot and Mr. Salamah was part of it. All others maintained the total innocence of their clinets and at least one of them accused Mr. Precht of undermining his client's defence.

Mr. Salamah said his son contacted him over the phone on Thursday, less than 24 hours before the verdict was announced.

"He sounded very confident that all would be acquitted," Mr. Salamah said. "He told me he would be with us here in a few days."

"Even the lawyer, who had called me a few days earlier, told me the same thing. He said the charges were unfounded and unsubstantiated," said Mr. Salamah.

The ex-serviceman noted that Mohammad had filed a petition to the judge that Mr. Precht's incriminatory summation did not represent his views and that the lawyer was no longer his legal counsel.

"But the court decided to accept the lawyer's argument that there was no change in his status as Mohammad's counsel," Mr. Salamah said.

"I don't know why (Precht) did such an injustice to my son, who always maintained his innocence and never told the lawyer anything of the nature that was presented to the court," said Amin Salamah.

"My limited knowledge of things tells me a lawyer is not supposed to invent things and present them in court on behalf of his client," he said. "Where did he get the notion that Mohammad had any part, witting or otherwise, in the attack?"

Mr. Salamah said his son, who has been in touch with the family over the phone from his prison, "always swore by God and assured me that he had nothing to do with the bombing and that he was never involved in any subversive plots.

"I brought up and educated my son, and I believe him."

Weapons Found in PFLP Leader's Car on Visit

JN0803210694 Amman AL-BILAD in Arabic 9 Mar 94 p 1

[Text] Let us begin [Secretary General of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine] Nayif Hawatimah's story where that of the secretary general of another front ends.

During his visit [to Jordan] where he met with the prime minister, Nayif Hawatimah expressed displeasure with the meticulous search of his car.

Prime Minister al-Majali explained to Nayif Hawatimah that he was not personally targeted by this search but that the Jordanian security authorities at the border posts have started to carefully search all incoming vehicles to Jordan, whether private or official.

Al-Majali explained to Hawatimah that Jordan was forced to do this out of its fear that these vehicles might be used to transport weapons into Jordan as had taken place with the car of George Habash [the secretary general of the Popular Front the Liberation of Palestine, PFLP].

The Jordanian version says that during Habash's recent visit to Jordan, his car was searched and various types of weapons and silencers were found in it.

On the other hand, the security forces have stepped up their surveillance of all the Jordanian border posts to foil any arms smuggling operation, particularly after the two cinema explosions.

U.S. Saratoga Missiles Spread Residual Radiation

JN0803134394 Amman AL-BILAD in Arabic 9 Mar 94 p 1

[Text] Confirmed information obtained by AL-BILAD says the nuclear radiation registered periodically since the Gulf war came from a U.S. aircraft carrier, the Saratoga.

Indubitable sources said a story that the radiation resulted from a defect in the Israeli Dimona nuclear reactor was leaked by U.S. circles to counter suspicions about the Saratoga by blaming the radiation on the Dimona reactor.

AL-BILAD obtained the following story on how this radiation occurred: The cruise missiles the Saratoga fired at Iraq from the Red Sea previously carried nuclear warheads designed to strike at the Warsaw Pact states. When the Gulf crisis erupted, the nuclear warheads were removed and replaced with conventional warheads, but the missiles were still charged with nuclear radiation, which has been registered more than once.

Explosives Discovered Near French Cultural Center

Device Defused

NC0903084694 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 9 Mar 94

[Text] A military source has stated that at about 0900 today, according to a tip by a citizen, Lebanese Army units found an explosive charge containing six kg of explosives packed like a present and placed near the French Cultural Center in the township of Ghadir in Kasrawan. The units cordoned off the area and a military expert defused the charge in coordination with the Internal Security Forces. It should be recalled that certain people earlier protested the decision to close down the French Cultural Center and move it to another area.

Further on Attempted Bombing

NC0903140594 Paris AFP in English 1325 GMT 9 Mar 94

[Text] Juniyah, Lebanon, March 9 (AFP)—The Lebanese Army defused a gift-wrapped bomb outside the French cultural center in the heart of Lebanon's Christian community on Wednesday, fuelling fears of further attacks ahead of the pope's visit.

The incident in the coastal town of Juniyah came 10 days after a bomb attack on Our Lady of Deliverance Church in northern Beirut killed nine people and wounded 55 in the nearby Christian community of Zuk Mikha'il.

Pope John Paul II pays his first visit to Lebanon in May and some political leaders have already voiced concern over his safety.

The six-kilogram (13-pound) bomb was concealed in a gift-wrapped package placed outside the French cultural center in the Ghadir area of Juniyah, 25 kilometers (15 miles) north of Beirut.

It was found by Chantal Mansur, a teacher at the center, who alerted the army, the French embassy charge d'affaires Bernard Letourneau told AFP.

The army said an unidentified group had recently protested over a decision to move the French cultural center to another location. It did not elaborate.

But Letourneau denied any plans to close down the center, which served as a consulate during the early days of Lebanon's 15-year civil war.

He said the building was owned by the Maronite Catholic Sisters of the Holy Family, and they were renegotiating the lease which expires in 1995.

"I don't know who the target was, the sisters or us. But it seems that this is the latest in a series of unfortunate attacks," he said referring to the February 27 church bombing.

Letourneau added he had instructed the directors of all French cultural centers and schools in Lebanon "to be vigilant."

An AFP photographer said army troops were stationed outside the center after the incident.

Secretary General of the right-wing Phalange Party Karim Paqraduni—which was devastated by a car-bomb in December which killed three and wounded 100—said he expected more attacks.

"Thanks to God today's attack was aborted. But I expect more bombings. They are part of a cycle which is aimed at the destabilisation of peace in Lebanon," Paqraduni told AFP.

"Christians feel they are the victims of such terrorist acts and these attacks will continue as long as the assailants go unpunished," he added.

The investigations into the church bombing and into the attack at the Phalange headquarters have made no headway.

Paqraduni said a series of steps by the government to strengthen the country's security apparatus, including plans to bring back capital punishment, "are all good things as long as they don't remain ink on paper."

Security measures have been stepped up in churches, mosques and schools in Lebanon.

Three Arrested

NC0903180894 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 9 Mar 94

[Text] Warrant Officer Muhammad al-Dada, a military expert in the Lebanese Army, dismantled an explosive device that was placed at the entrance of the French Cultural Center in the town of Ghadir in Kasrawan at 0900 today.

According to available information, the device was placed by two unidentified persons in their twenties who were driving a black BMW around the center. The central security forces arrested the two persons for interrogation. It turned out that they had maps of Juniyah and neighboring areas. A third person was taken in for interrogation by the security agencies.

The gift-wrapped device was six kg of a highly-explosive material, equal to 25 kg of TNT, and was placed at the main entrance to the center. It was discovered by the center manager, Mrs. Chantal Mansur, who was suspicious and contacted the security agencies.

A security meeting was immediately held in the office of Juniyah Company Commander Colonel Ziyad 'Urabi in the presence of the chiefs of security in the region.

The French Foreign Ministry announced a short while ago that Paris is considering with the Lebanese authorities the possibility of adopting security measures to protect French interests in Lebanon. The Foreign Ministry spokesman pointed out that the targeted cultural center will resume its activity as usual. He condemned the sabotage attempt, noting that the French Government is in contact with the Lebanese authorities to shed light on the incident and uncover the circumstances surrounding it.

Sources at the French Embassy have said that there are no plans to close the center as rumored.

Upon receiving the news, the French charge d'affairs headed to the cultural center to find out what happened.

Foreign Ministry Secretary General Zafir al-Hasan telephoned the French charge this afternoon to convey the Lebanese Government's denunciation of the incident.

Israeli Knesset Member on Official Visit to Syria

Comments on Visit

TA0803111794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 8 Mar 94

[Telephone interview with Knesset Member 'Abd-al-Wahhab Darawshah, in Damascus, by Shmu'el Tal, in Jerusalem, on 7 March—recorded]

[Text] [Tal] Are you in Damascus?

[Darawshah] Yes, we are in Damascus. That is a fact.

[Tal] How were you received there?

[Darawshah] We received a tremendous reception. All 57 members of the delegation were pleasantly surprised by the warm welcome and the expressions of brotherhood here. Our Syrian brothers are going out of their way to welcome us and host us. They also surprised us with their openness, contrary to everything we had heard earlier. We received a warm welcome and the delegation members were permitted to go wherever they desired. We were told that we could do whatever we wanted and meet whomever we desired. During the day we toured the city, we conducted a very interesting visit to the 'Amawi mosque and to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. MK Talib al-Sani' and myself, together with the other members of the delegation, placed a large wreath on the Tomb, and the governor of the Damascus district also held a large feast in our honor although it is now Ramadan.

[Tal] Is there any chance of your meeting President al-Asad?

[Darawshah] According to the schedule, we will meet President al-Asad on Wednesday [9 March].

[Tal] What do you plan on telling him?

[Darawshah] First of all, we will issue our condolences on the death of his son. That, after all, is the purpose of our visit. The president is free, of course, to raise any issue; however, we will not initiate such discussion.

[Tal] Is the Syrian media covering your visit?

[Darawshah] Our visit was extensively reported on Syrian television, on the radio, and in the press. The press throughout the entire Arab world is extensively covering this visit.

[Tal] Is the fact that the delegation is from Israel highlighted?

[Darawshah] Yes, they are aware of this fact and report it. Everyone knows who we are and where we came from.

[Tal] The media as well?

[Darawshah] The media as well. All the correspondents know that the delegation includes two Israeli MK's, local council heads, university lecturers, public figures, journalists, etc. The eight journalists who arrived with the delegation from Israel are being permitted to report on things, to ask questions and interview people, and to take pictures.

[Tal] Is there any chance that you might receive some information about the Israeli POW's and MIA's?

[Darawshah] I cannot say anything on this matter at the present time.

[Tal] Did you learn anything about the state of the Jewish community in Syria?

[Darawshah] We are scheduled to visit the Jewish community, meet with the chief rabbi, and visit the main synagogue here. We asked permission to conduct such a visit and our Syrian hosts immediately agreed. I hope that we will indeed have the chance to meet with the Jewish community; however, from all that we have heard they are treated exactly like the other Syrian citizens.

[Tal] MK Darawshah, have you received the impression that the Syrian people receive accurate information about the peace process?

[Darawshah] Look, they listen to Qol Yisra'el in Arabic. They watch television and read newspapers. This is not the isolated and closed off Syria that people try to portray. We have seen that the people here are aware of everything that is going on. There is a profound desire to reach a peace agreement but a great deal of distrust regarding the intentions and positions of the Israeli Government. The Hebron massacre was especially painful and infuriated people.

[Tal] The massacre probably received wide coverage in Syria. What do the members of the delegation, as Israel's representatives to some extent, have to say about that?

[Darawshah] Well, you know that we also have a position on that matter. We are angry. It is no secret that we protest and condemn it. On the other hand, we greatly aspire to contribute to the peace process.

[Tal] Do you explain that the massacre does not reflect a phenomenon but was the act of an isolated individual?

[Darawshah] I believe that the Syrians are aware of the arguments on this matter within Israeli society. There is criticism of the Army's actions following the massacre. There are daily reports on the incidents in the territories and on the fact that more people are killed and wounded every day. This is very worrisome.

[Tal] Thank you, MK Darawshah.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0500 GMT on 8 March reports that "our correspondent Qaysar Qabhah, who is accompanying the delegation of Israeli Arabs visiting Damascus, reports that PLO official Faruq Qaddumi also visited the Syrian capital recently and before

leaving left a letter for MK Darawshah. MK Darawshah refused to divulge the letter's contents."]

Notes Palestinians' Status

PM0803151994 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 8 Mar 94 p 5

[Interview with Israeli Knesset Member 'Abd-al-Wahhab Darawshah by Ibrahim Humaydi in Damascus; date not given]

[Text] [Humaydi] Do you see any political dimension to your visit to Syria?

[Darawshah] We have come to offer our condolences and perform a social, pan-Arab, and humanitarian duty. We are not carrying any messages or carrying out any political mission.

[Humaydi] Do you believe that the visit will contribute to pushing the peace negotiations forward?

[Darawshah] The aim of the visit is not to give an impetus to or influence the negotiations. However, if it secures better conditions, we welcome that. But I stress that that is not the aim. The aim is to perform a duty.

[Humaydi] Who are the officials you will meet with during the three days you are to spend in Damascus?

[Darawshah] We wish to hold political meetings, and, of course, we are not going to embark on anything of that kind without coordination with the Syrian brothers.

[Humaydi] What about the possibility of contacts with those opposed to the Oslo accord?

[Darawshah] That is up to the brother Syrian hosts. We have no reservations about any meeting.

[Humaydi] What is your opinion of the Gaza-Jericho agreement between Israel and the PLO?

[Darawshah] We advocate ending the occupation, establishing an independent Palestinian state, and achieving a just and comprehensive peace—a peace of the brave, as President al-Asad called it. I believe that Arab strategy is a peace strategy, and Yitzhaq Rabin's government is required to make goodwill gestures by announcing its acceptance of the land-for-peace principle, agreement to implement resolutions 242 and 338, and willingness to end the occupation of the occupied Arab territories, including the occupied Syrian Golan, so that rights will be restored to their legitimate owners. Then there would be a real possibility of achieving peace in the region.

We are struggling in two directions: the first is to achieve peace, end the occupation, and provide every possible support for the Palestinian people in the occupied territories so that they can obtain their freedom and independence; the second is to obtain our rights as citizens, because we are suffering from the policy of racial discrimination at all levels. There is discrimination against anyone who is not a Jew.

[Humaydi] What is your view of a solution to return the parties to the negotiating table?

[Darawshah] As I said in the Knesset, the Israeli Government must make goodwill gestures; restrain the settlers; guarantee international protection for the Palestinians, who are subjected to repression, torture, and massacre; and declare its willingness to evacuate the settlements and disarm the settlers.

[Humaydi] And if that does not happen?

[Darawshah] International efforts are under way to find a solution to these issues. We are awaiting a resolution from the Security Council, and I hope the council's resolution will be in line with the Palestinian demands.

[Humaydi] You were not offered a ministerial portfolio. Will you be offered one when peace is established?

[Darawshah] We have demanded our rights and rejected injustice and discrimination. Rabin has the desire to deal with us. But so far he is still refusing, and we are still insisting on our position and demanding our rights.

Our rights are numerous, and we have not obtained them. Our lands and rights have been confiscated, and these are among the things which we will continue to demand. We also demand the return of the confiscated land, our national rights, and our rights as citizens.

Meets With President

JN0903175194 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1615 GMT 9 Mar 94

[Text] At 1230 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received the delegation of the 1948 Palestinians led by 'Abd-al-Wahhab Darawshah. Members of the delegation offered their condolences on the loss of the nation of Staff Major Engineer Paratrooper Basil al-Asad. The president thanked members of the delegation for their noble sentiments and sincere condolences.

Comments on Meeting

TA0903173094 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1700 GMT 9 Mar 94

[Text] The Israeli Arab delegation today conferred with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad in Damascus. At the end of the meeting, the spokesman for the president's bureau said that al-Asad thanked the members of the delegation for sharing his grief and for their sincere condolences. A short time ago, our correspondent 'Ofer Vardi spoke with Knesset Member 'Abd-al-Wahhab Darawshah, the head of the delegation:

[Begin Darawshah recording] It was a good, interesting, and lengthy meeting which lasted over two hours. The president greeted us with manifest warmth and modesty. Despite the grief over the death of his son, he gave us an extraordinary reception. He stood up and kissed each one of us, and upon our departure he walked me out of the hall and bid farewell to each of us.

In the meeting, we extended our condolences and discussed the peace process. He lectured us at length about the Syrian position on the peace process. He also welcomed our initiative to come to Syria to extend our condolences, and said he regarded us as part of the Arab world. At the same time, he emphasized that Syria's strategy is one of peace.

He said: We are prepared to embrace the formula of full peace in exchange for full withdrawal, and we already know what kind of peace we want. We want full peace in all its senses, but the Israeli Government has not yet defined the kind of withdrawal it has in mind. The prime minister speaks about a withdrawal on the Golan, rather than from the entire Golan. [end recording]

Radio Reports on al-Asad Meeting

TA0903195994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1705 GMT 9 Mar 94

[Telephone report by Qol Yisra'el Arabic correspondent Qaysar Kabaha, a member of the Israeli Arab delegation currently visiting Damascus—live]

[Text] The delegation's three-hour meeting with President al-Asad this afternoon was very warm and lively. President al-Asad shook hands and talked with everybody. When we all sat down he addressed us like family. Al-Asad said: With the help of God, peace will come. We talk about it and the entire world talks about it. Syria was the one to start the peace process. Since 1973, Syria has been leaning in that direction and agreed to accept UN resolutions. He mentioned by name only UN Resolution 338, which according to al-Asad refers to withdrawal from all the territories and giving the Palestinians back their rights. He said there has been no progress since then due to the Israeli claim that Syria agreed to the UN resolution because it misunderstood the resolution. He said there have been many U.S. and Soviet initiatives since 1973, but that the latest U.S. peace initiative clearly shows that Syria wants peace on the basis of the UN resolutions, which means an Israeli withdrawal. The U.S. initiative conforms with that demand, he said.

Al-Asad said that one of the reasons for Labor's success in the last elections, as he understands it, is its peace slogan. After Labor came to power, the atmosphere in the talks improved, and they began to discuss issues of principle, but no progress has been made.

The Syrian president sharply attacked Israeli leaders and said that they always make new demands of everybody else. Since the start of the peace process, Syria has contributed a great deal—it has always initiated things—while the Israeli Government has contributed almost nothing. Everybody knows that Israel has a policy of procrastination, he said. Israel participated in the Madrid conference because it was under pressure. He presented examples of Israel's foot dragging. Al-Asad said: We offered the land-for-peace principle. The Israelis said it was good, but not enough. We said okay, we will offer a different principle: full withdrawal for full peace. They said it is not sufficiently clear and they do not know what it really means. There is therefore a general impression that Israel is dragging its feet.

On the state of Syrian Jewry, President al-Asad said that Israel more that anybody else is responsible if any harm comes to Syrian Jews. It is true that in the 1970's there were restrictions on Syrian Jews, which was vital following the establishment of Israel in 1948. We did not take those steps because we wanted to exploit them, he said. Syria does not deprive anybody; there is freedom of religion and ritual. The constraints were limited to ID's, leaving the country, and movements inside Syria. In the 1980's, and even before that, we understood that there was no justification for continuing those procedures. We decided to discontinue restrictions on 5,000 or 6,000 people because five or six Jews ran away or tried to run away. President al-Asad said that he reached the conclusion that Syrian Jews are Syrian citizens and lifted the restrictions on them. We made life easier for Syrian Jews, but I have learned that many of them have returned to Syria, al-Asad said.

Another issue al-Asad referred to was that of Israeli MIA's. He said that Israel has asked almost the entire world to raise the issue with him. Every delegation and VIP that comes to me brings a letter and manifesto from the families of Israeli MIA's. I understand that it is a humanitarian issue and we respect the dignity of man. We always discuss it for moral and humanitarian reasons, but one of our officers once asked a U.S. Congressional delegation why Israel does not permit us to look for our missing, since there are many Syrian MIA's.

Al-Asad said that peace is on the agenda and that he wants peace, but that what Syria is being offered is inappropriate and does satisfy the Arab people. When Israel makes offers with the aim of dragging its feet, that means that they do not take the concerns of others into account, or that they make light of them, or ridicule them. Al-Asad said he is always told to copy the late President al-Sadat, but I am not al-Sadat, he said. Do any of the international agreements or UN resolutions contain a clause that al-Asad has to copy al-Sadat? he asked. In reference to peace, he said that Israel has a policy of foot dragging and trying to put up obstacles.

Al-Asad was asked why he does not agree to meet with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and when will the peace talks be renewed. He said, and I quote: Our delegation is conducting negotiations with the Israeli delegation. When they make progress we will discuss anything necessary.

There was an impromptu news conference tonight at the hotel where we are staying with the leader of the Jewish community in Damascus. The main speaker was Yusuf Jajati, deputy head of the community.

[Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew at 1800 GMT on 9 March quotes the Committee

of Arab Local Councils and the Supreme Arab Follow-Up Committee as saying that "Knesset Member 'Abd-al-Wahhab Darawshah's delegation does not represent the Israeli Arab community. The spokesmen told our correspondent Moti Eden that the delegation at best represents the Arab Democratic Party."]

Further on al-Asad Meeting

JN0903202094 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1835 GMT 9 Mar 94

[Report on President Hafiz al-Asad's reception of an Israeli-Arab delegation in Damascus—read by announcer]

[Text] At 1230 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received a delegation of the 1948 Palestinians led by 'Abd-al-Wahhab Darawshah. Members of the delegation offered their condolences on the nation's loss of Staff Major Engineer Paratrooper Basil al-Asad. The president thanked the members of the delegation for their noble sentiments and sincere condolences.

The president welcomed the members of the delegation. He said: Syria is your country. The more brothers are away from each other the more they miss each other. When I say that Syria is your country, it is not that this is a favor from me, or that I expect anything in return, it is a reality. These are our feelings regardless of the political and geographical reality.

You all know about history and the sentiments of the Syrians and their pan-Arab view. All the Arab boundaries we are living under are fabricated boundaries and this is a fact. Life itself shows the continuation of pan-Arab ties are stronger than any other ties. I believe that whoever says otherwise will be contradicting history's course and facts, and the development of human life.

If there are people who claim that this is an exaggeration, then they do not at all express the Arab citizens' sentiments and logic. There are many nations, not just one, with different histories and language that are trying to come closer to each other.

There has been a great deal of talk about interests during this historical stage and in light of international changes. This word became a popular term, as if it is everything. We say that when we talk about interests, we mean all interests. We do not only mean economic interests. We mean economic interests as well as mutual sentiments and culture and tradition.

The president also spoke about the history of, and developments in, the Arab-Israeli conflict. He said that the media in Israel always says that Syria is threatening Israel's security. He added that even during the peace talks, the Israelis talked about this. Some foreigners who visit us talk about the Golan and how it is a threat to Israel's security. We refer them to the UN Charter and the resolutions of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization dealing with clashes on the Syrian-Israeli front since 1948. With the exception of one or two resolutions, on which there are differences, there are more than one hundred resolutions that condemn Israel.

The president talked about the Middle East peace process. He said: We hope to God that peace, which we and the world are talking about, will be achieved. In fact, Syria is the one that opened the door to peace. After the 1973 war, we accepted Resolution 338 and its main pillar, Resolution 242. In our written interpretation of this resolution to the United Nations we said that we accept the resolution on the basis that it means withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and securing the rights of the Palestinian Arab people. Meanwhile, Israel did not accept Resolution 338 under the pretext that Syria read in it something that was not there. In the end, however, they agreed to a cease-fire on this basis.

We have a strong stand in terms of arguments, resolutions, and logic. Our stand does not leave much room for the logic of others. You all know that many initiatives have been launched since 1973. Finally, there was the U.S. peace initiative, which in our opinion was the best initiative—one that is clear and based on the principles that have always been reiterated by the Arab side. These principles call for the exchange of land for peace, based on Resolutions 242 and 338. We always said that we wanted a peace based on the UN Security Council resolutions, which stipulate a full withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, and the rights of the Palestinian Arab people. All of this was stressed during our talks with the delegations that have visited us from the countries that have contacted us. The U.S. initiative came in response to this issue.

You recall that before Syria replied to the U.S. initiative, Shamir gave his rejection and sent a letter to the U.S. President at the time making the rejection clear. As for us, after we saw positive points in the initiative, we said that we agreed to it. It goes without saying that Shamir was not in a good position when we accepted it. At the beginning, Shamir believed that by rejecting the initiative, he would be obstructing the peace process. But, the reply of Syria and the Arab side embarrassed him a great deal and the peace process was launched.

Shamir and his government stepped down without him ever saying to the Americans that he agreed to their initiative. All the attempts and efforts of the Americans succeeded only in making him agree to participate in the Madrid conference, without agreeing to the initiative as a whole.

During all the time that Shamir's government remained in power, no progress was achieved and not one step was made in the peace talks. Then came the present Israeli government under Yitzhaq Rabin with the slogan of peace that it raised. We said: This augurs well. The truth is that the atmosphere of the talks improved with its advent, but the talks themselves did not improve or progress. The Israeli side continued to evade discussing

any topic dealing with substance. They started to get closer to essential issues. However, no progress was achieved. They said they would submit new ideas. But, actually, they were new demands submitted to the Arab side. So long as the matter did not deal with substance, we used to give and take and to make initiatives. But on substance, there is no possibility for compromise or placation. Substance remains substance. Syria has offered a great deal since the beginning of the peace process. On the opposite side, the Israeli government has not offered anything to push the peace process ahead. Syria used to take initiatives, make proposals, and submit steps the Israelis themselves said were positive. Sometimes they even described them as important, but they always used to say that more is needed. After the talks started, Syria submitted the first written paper. It was a document the Americans described as a historic document. The Israeli side described it as very important. However, in the next session with the Syrian delegation, they said: This is good but not sufficient. After some time we offered peace in exchange for land. They said: This is good, but not good enough.

Our foreign minister then proposed complete peace for complete withdrawal. They said: This too is good, but unclear. They continued to submit other things that have nothing to do with the peace process. Thus, matters used to go backward.

Israel's stands in all the discussions on the peace process are stands that say: Give and keep giving. Recently, the European Union chairman visited us. I told him that Israel tries to carry out blackmail. It gives nothing, and wants to discuss security and all issues in which it alone is interested, saying the others have to wait. These are impossible demands. The Israelis have submitted matters that are very far from the peace process. That's why no progress was achieved. I believe that several Western countries consider Israel an element hampering the peace process. As for our stand, it has become clear to the Americans, the Russians, and all the people that we want a complete and comprehensive peace. If peace is not comprehensive, one cannot describe it as peace. We, the Arabs are one nation even if there is enmity between us.

The Americans are now really talking about a comprehensive peace and they have convictions about this. Our relations with the United States now are much better than before. Had the issue merely been Syrian-American relations, there would have not been any problems. We have great doubts that Israeli officials do not seek peace. We have doubts, but we have not reached any final conviction. Such a matter will be either proven or disproven by time.

We seriously seek peace, and the Israeli officials know this. We really want peace, while they only speak about peace. In light of what they are proposing, it seems that their vision of peace is not the same as ours. Therefore, we will struggle until their peace becomes identical with our peace. Our position is very strong because we are the owners of rights. International changes will not force us to retreat. Peace means rights. In other words, each party has its rights and each party is the master of itself and its interests. This is our understanding of peace. When we said the peace of the brave, we meant that each party will achieve full peace with all its rights, and that each party will not humiliate the other.

Addressing the delegation, the president said: I warmly thank you for your visit to offer condolences on the death of my son. As I said a few days ago, my son is like the rest of the citizens. He might have had skills that do not exist in one of his colleagues, as happens in every place and in every family. Except for the human feelings placed by God in people, all my sons in Syria are equal to me. When my sons were still children living with me at home, I always pushed them to the front to be ready, like all Syrians, to defend the homeland, the Arabs' rights, and the interests of the Arab nation. The loss of any skilled person whether here, in the Gulf, or in the Maghreb is a loss for everyone and for the homeland. I, as well as the citizens, viewed the tragedy from this angle. If you saw the Syrian citizens during the past days you saw the emotional participation of our people. I know our people and their stands in all events and circumstances—it is the same stand in the face of all kinds of difficulties, all kinds of aggression, and all that take place in accordance God's will. If the deceased can know what happens after his death—and this means knowing unseen things—our son will be happy for meeting his brothers who came from Palestine [which was occupied in] 1948.

[Text] 'Abd-al-Wahhab Darawshah spoke for the delegation, saying: We are pleased to hear this pan-Arab position you have just expressed. We have always been eager to meet with your excellency to hear these positions, which we have followed closely. We strongly support this position because it expresses the Arab nation's dignity, the Arab conscience, and the cause of freedom which cannot be divided anywhere.

On this occasion, please allow me to deliver a brief speech in the name of the delegation's members to offer our warm condolences to our brother His Excellency Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, to his honorable family, to the Syrian Government, and to the fraternal Syrian people on the death of Staff Major Basil, whose death is a loss for the whole Arab nation. O Your Excellency the President: We share with you this disaster with our feelings, minds, and hearts because we are the sons of this nation and we are an indivisible part of the Palestinian people and the Arab nation.

We came to express our sincere feelings and to offer condolences to your excellency. At the same time, we are pound of Syria's positions under your wise, rational, and brave leadership. We also appreciate these positions and realize that this sound, nationalist, and sincere pan-Arab position that you adopt may be the key to a just and comprehensive solution to the dispute in the region—a solution you have called the peace of the brave. We also

adopt the formula you have been proposing—the peace of the courageous that which will guarantee rights to every nation. Otherwise, peace cannot be achieved.

We know that there is an essential contradiction between the occupation and the cause of peace. Therefore, we urge the Israeli Government persistently and strongly through the Knesset and the political map inside Israel to carry out a full withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories; namely, the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, the occupied Syrian Golan, southern Lebanon, and the occupied Jordanian territories, and to recognize the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and the establishment of their independent state.

We say this knowing that there is an Arab will that Your Excellency expressed during your meeting with President Clinton in Geneva. There, you represented the Arab nation. Our hearts were with you, and when you met with President Clinton, you, O Your Excellency the President, were representing the whole Arab nation and not just Syria's position.

We value the position of militant Syria, the bastion of Arabism, which is striving to achieve the unity of this nation. We are for inter-Arab coordination. We would like to say, with all honesty, that inter-Arab coordination can help our Arab nation restore its rights and ensure a just and comprehensive solution, because a fragmented Arab position cannot help us achieve the accomplishments we seek. It is possible to achieve peace when Israel faces a well-coordinated and harmonious Arab stand. We are well aware that there are conflicting forces operating within the Israeli political spectrum. There are pro-peace forces that have recently staged demonstrations to protest the heinous Ibrahimi Mosque massacre. Tens of thousands of people, including us, took part in these demonstrations. They demonstrated against the killings, and also to call for the achievement of a just and comprehensive peace.

The Israeli Government, however, has thus far failed to provide any cogent proof or evidence, in terms of practices, as you have just said, to show the entire world community, the Arab nation, and us, as citizens, that its position is sound. That is why we have demanded that the Israeli Government declare a willingness to withdraw from the occupied Arab territories.

With regard to the issue of peace between Syria and Israel, the formula raised by President Mubarak and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', namely, the formula of full withdrawal in return for full peace, we would like to say that we are attempting to promote this formula within the Israeli political spectrum so that Israeli political forces may support this formula, and so that they may express full support for complete withdrawal from the Golan in return for a peace agreement.

Of late, many people in Israel have begun to express stands supportive of this formula. The number of people supporting this formula is increasing. Likewise, the Israeli Government is required to take practical measures toward the sons of our Palestinian people in the occupied territories, who are suffering from repression, torture, and heinous massacres. Thousands of martyrs have fallen, not to mention tens of thousands of wounded and detainees. Almost, each and every Palestinian house in the West Bank and Gaza Strip has lost a martyr, has had a wounded person, or has had a prisoner held in Israeli jails. Hence, we call upon Israeli rulers to change their policy toward our Palestinian people.

Mr. President, I would like to reiterate again that we, the Palestinians who have continued to live in Israel proper since 1948, are committed to our Arab nationalism, to our true Arabism, to our Palestinian identity; and that we have neither succumbed, nor accepted humiliation. We have not been brought to our knees. With regard to Syria's position, which you have just explained, we share the same position with you. To us, you are a good example. How can the struggle battle be waged, except with heads held high with dignity and pride? Hence, I, on behalf of our people, who are represented by this delegation, salute you. This delegation came to Syria to extend to you our fraternal condolences on our people's behalf, and also to clasp your hand in your persistent march, and in your constant struggle to achieve the Arab nation's objectives. We are well aware that Syria, under your leadership, is working to promote the Arab nation's interests, to serve the Palestine question, and to protect the dignity of this nation, and not only to promote the Golan issue, which is confined to Syrian territory. Rather, you seek the restoration of all Arab rights.

Given all this, we clasp your hands and beseech God Almighty to protect you, to grant you continued good health, and to render the march you are leading for the sake of Syria, which we deem our second home, a success. We take pride in Syria, in its president, in its leader, in its symbol, in its people, and in its government. Similarly, we hope that the Syrian people, our Palestinian people, and our Arab nation will achieve prosperity and progress.

Concluding my talk, I would like to ask all brothers to read the opening chapter of the Koran to invoke God's mercy on the souls of the martyrs of the entire Arab nation, the Syrian martyrs, the Palestinian martyrs, and the martyrs of the Ibrahimi Mosque, and also on the soul of the valiant youth Basil al-Asad, whose death was a loss to all of us.

A delegation member posed the following question to his excellency the president: When will the Syrian-Israeli negotiations be resumed? And what are Syria's conditions for a resumption of the negotiations? Yitzhaq Rabin has repeatedly said that he wants a summit meeting with President Hafiz al-Asad to accelerate the peace process? How would you respond to this request?

His excellency the president answered this question, saying: We have an authorized negotiating team that holds negotiations with the Israeli delegation. This team

is very reliable. When they make progress, we will discuss any requirements or prerequisites of the peace process. Nonetheless, the delegations have continued to mark time. Once they make headway, we will discuss any additional requirements, if there are any.

Another delegation member addressed the following question: Mr. Rabin always reacts to your statements. The idea you are promoting concerns the attainment of comprehensive and true peace in return for an Israeli withdrawal from all Arab territories. In reply to this, Rabin says that the extent of withdrawal must be commensurate with the scope of peace offered. My question is the following: What is the scope of the peace you are speaking of?

His excellency the president answered this question, saying: Why have you not asked him about the extent of withdrawal he is speaking of. We have explained the kind of peace we are offering; that is, full peace. As for Rabin, he has not mentioned full withdrawal. There must be equilibrium. Were I in your shoes, I would pose this question to him. He has not mentioned full withdrawal.

A third delegation member asked the following question: The Syrian-Israeli dialogue is a political dialogue. It is moving slowly at present. For how long will Syria remain engaged in this dialogue if it deems it a waste of time?

His excellency the president answered this question, saying: Until we reach the conviction that there is no room for a just peace.

India

Radio Reports on Postponement of UN's Kashmir Resolution

BK0903153994 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 9 Mar 94

[Text] Voting on Pakistan's resolution on Kashmir at the UN Human Rights Commission session at Geneva today has been postponed until 1930 this evening to allow time for further consultations. The postponement was sought by Pakistan. Reports say that Islamabad is under pressure from some Islamic Conference Organization—ICO—countries, notably Iran, to withdraw the resolution. As the commission took up voting on Pakistan's resolution early during the day, the chairman informed the house that Pakistani and Iranian delegations have sought postponement of the vote.

Efforts of PRC, Iran Noted

BK0903161894 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 9 Mar 94

[Text] China and Iran have asked Islamabad to defer voting on the human rights resolution on Kashmir in Geneva. This was announced by the Pakistan foreign minister, Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali, at Islamabad a short while ago. He told a press conference that consequently Pakistan has authorized China and Iran to decide the best course they feel is available for it.

Earlier, Beijing and Tehran approached Islamabad to postpone for three hours the voting on the resolution this evening so that further consultation could be held on certain proposals made by them. These options included either withdrawal of the resolution or its indefinite deferment. PTI, quoting observers in Islamabad, says Pakistan can agree to withdraw the resolution.

India's 'Stunning' Victory Noted

BK1003033294 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 10 Mar 94

[Text] India won a stunning diplomatic victory in Geneva last night when Pakistan was forced to withdraw unconditionally its resolution on Kashmir at the UN Human Rights Commission. Reports say the Pakistani decision came after its delegation realized that there was no prospect of the resolution being carried. Leading the way, Iran appealed to Pakistan not to press for the resolution just before the voting was scheduled to begin. The Iranian move was supported by China. Immediately after, delegate after delegate of the developing countries, including Syria and Indonesia, appealed to Pakistan to withdraw the resolution. Majority of the countries indicated that they would abstain from voting. They said the issue should be resolved through bilateral talks between the two sides.

The leader of the Indian delegation, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, and the minister of state for external affairs, Mr. Salman Khurshid, have expressed the satisfaction at the withdrawal of the resolution and called it a vindication of New Delhi's principled stand.

The leader of the Pakistani delegation said that Islamabad's move followed high-level consultations between Iran and Pakistan and the views of the majority of member countries.

The external affairs minister, Mr. Dinesh Singh, has thanked Iran and China for prevailing upon Pakistan to withdraw the resolution. In a statement in New Delhi, he expressed the hope that Pakistan will now be ready for bilateral talks under the Simla Agreement and desist from misleading the international community through false allegations of violations of human rights in India.

The prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, has complimented Mr. Vajpayee on phone for the excellent work done at the UN Human Rights Commission in Geneva.

Pakistan Urged To 'Accept Defeat'

BK1003035894 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 10 Mar 94

[Commentary by Kanchan Gupta]

[Text] Pakistan has only itself to blame for the virtual defeat it has suffered at the UN Human Rights Commission [UNHRC] conference in Geneva, where it has to unconditionally withdraw its politically motivated resolution that was aimed at embarrassing New Delhi and subverting India's sovereignty over Jammu and Kashmir. Faced with a grim prospect of being found out for playing a game of lies and half-truth that would have led to a defeat of its motion had it been voted upon, Islamabad had dropped the paragraph calling for a UN factfinding mission to visit Kashmir from its resolution on Tuesday [8 March]. This paragraph was substituted with one that called upon India to ensure the promotion and protection of human rights in Jammu and Kashmir. This was obviously done in the hope that there would be more takers for the resolution and it would be carried through.

India, of course, had repudiated this latest maneuver, and as much was evident when Dr. Farooq Abdullah, articulating New Delhi's response to the latest twist in Islamabad's devious gameplan, told the delegates that no resolution touching any aspect of Kashmir was acceptable to India.

Obviously, the Indian message had more takers than Pakistan's misadventurism, because by yesterday it was clear that 43 of the 53 members of the UNHRC had decided not to have anything to do with the resolution. As for the remaining 10, obviously the majority were poised to vote against the motion. India owes its moral victory to various factors, including the excellent work done by its delegation in Geneva. The minister of state for external affairs, Mr. Salman Khurshid, who stationed

himself in Geneva, valiantly fought against each and every charge that was leveled by Islamabad and its agencies masquerading as NGO's [nongovernmental organizations]. Back at home, the prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, made it clear that the Government of India is not lacking in resolve as far as protecting Kashmir from predators is concerned. The home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan's spirited defense of India's case on Kashmir and its pledge to stake everything to defeat the Pakistani gameplan also contributed toward weakening Islamabad's resolve. Credit should also be given to China and Iran for finally convincing Pakistan about the folly of its action.

Will Pakistan learn a lesson from the humiliation it has suffered in Geneva? The outcome of the conference shows that while rhetoric as resorted to by the Pakistan prime minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, may sound fine, it does not yield results. India believes in peaceful coexistence with its neighbors and has consistently reiterated its commitment to bilateral dialogue. Hopefully, Pakistan—having traversed the path of defeat—will now realize that there is no substitute for peace, truth, and honesty. It is also hoped that Pakistan will stop stoking the fires that it has lit in Kashmir and honor India's territorial integrity. However, it remains to be seen if Ms. Bhutto's government has the political courage to accept defeat and mend its ways.

Iran

U.S. Urged To Make 'Greater Concessions' for Relations

NC1003111594 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 8 Mar 94 p 2

[Editorial: "Conciliatory Overtures"]

[Text] After 14 years of mutual animosity between the United States and the Islamic Republic, American determination to avoid contacts with Iran seems to have diminished.

The U.S. National Security Adviser Anthony Lake, and Undersecretary of State for Near East Affairs Robert Pelletreau, have recently made statements indicative of U.S. intentions to open a direct dialogue with the Islamic Republic.

Following 14 years of desperate efforts to undermine the legitimacy of Iran, the United States is finally heeding international pressure and is trying to come to terms with the political realities of the Islamic Republic.

Pelletreau recently told the House of Representatives' Subcommittee on Foreign Affairs that the United States will not try to destabilize the government of Iran and no longer considers the Islamic Republic to be a temporary phenomenon. Washington's apparent change of heart is motivated by two objectives. First, since the demise of the international bipolar political power structure, and due to the ambiguous nature of the emerging 'new world order,' Europe has exercised its right to make political decisions independent of the U.S., and has therefore gained increasing influence in the Middle East. Most European countries, in defiance of the United States, have established and maintained cordial relations with Iran, thereby limiting American influence in this region.

Second, the failure of the U.S.-imposed Middle East peace talks has prompted Washington to consider using Tehran's spiritual influence in the Islamic world to revive and legitimize the peace accord, and to indirectly contain what it perceives to be the epidemic spreading of 'Islamic fundamentalism' in the Muslim Middle East.

Realizing and accepting global realities, America is eagerlr awaiting to reoccupy its dominant position in the Middle East. Iran has all along endeavored to stay faithful to its own Islamic Revolution while leaving open the possibility of reconciliation with the U.S. provided that America releases Iran's assets, which are frozen in U.S. banks, and refrains from covert and overt operations aimed at isolating and destabilizing the Islamic Republic.

Considering the resulting benefits for both sides, if relations are indeed re-established, the United States stands to gain a lot more than Iran, therefore, it should be prepared to make greater concessions. Iranian officials are well aware of this fact and will base their demands and proposals accordingly.

Editorial: Settling Financial Matters Would Help Ties

NC1003114994 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 5 Mar 94 p 2

[Editorial: "Iran-America Relations"]

[Text] Talks, comments and features on Iran-America relations are heard and seen in the western media quite often these days. Last Thursday the Islamic Republic of Iran News Agency (IRNA) reported, without quoting the source, that Mr. Robert Pelletreau, undersecretary of state for Near Eastern affairs had said that Washington did not intend to subvert the Islamic government in Iran and that it was ready to sit down with Iranian officials and discuss outstanding issues on which Tehran and Washington have different views. Mr. Pelletreau was also quoted as saying that the political system in Iran is here to stay for a long time to come.

It has been noticed that the subject of Iran-America relations is usually raised when some tragic event occurs in the Muslim world. For instance, the topic was widely discussed in the western media simultaneously with the signing of an accord in Washington last September between Mr. Yasir 'Arafat and Mr. Yitzhaq Rabin, prime minister of the Zionist state.

And now we hear the same story told by a different person after the slaughter of more than 60 Palestinian worshipers at the al-Ibrahimi Mosque in Al-Khalil (Hebron).

This might have been done with the intention of diverting attention of the people of Iran from vital issues and maybe for conveying a message to its officials that if they should look the other way, they would be compensated.

Nevertheless, the official stance of the Islamic Republic of Iran on this issue has been made known on many occasions. The last time it was done was by the leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i, who said on the 14th anniversary of the seizure of the former U.S. Embassy by Muslim students in Tehran that, "The Iranian nation does not need to negotiate, or have relations with an arrogant enemy such as America."

Anyway, if Washington is sincere in its aims to reconcile differences with a big Muslim country in the Middle East the easiest way would be to settle all financial matters with Iran. The first step Clinton's administration can take is release all Iranian assets that were frozen by the former U.S. president Jimmy Carter. The next step would be to attend to other issues of dispute between America and Iran such as the downing of the passenger airliner in the Persian Gulf. These and several other points can be negotiated and a solution found to end the animosity between Iran and America. But will the U.S. ever be able to keep aside its arrogance? Will it realize that a revolutionary nation can never be forced to yield by arrogance, threats and baseless accusations such as international terrorism and violation of human rights?

Egyptian Charges About Assassination Plot Denounced

LD0903155494 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 9 Mar 94

[Text] In the wake of recent comments of Egyptian President Husni Mubarak accusing Iran of involvement in the assassination plot of the Egyptian prime minister, 'Atif Sidqi, last October, Iran's Foreign Ministry has reacted sharply.

In the same connection, Mr. Morteza Sarmadi, the spokesman of the Foreign Ministry, yesterday strongly denied the charge, and he expressed regret that the president of a country has asserted such baseless and unfounded comments merely on the strength of fabricated and distorted information against the Islamic Republic of Iran. Comments of Egyptian President Husni Mubarak against Iran have appeared in his recent interview carried by the Kuwaiti-based daily of AL-QABAS. These say that the Islamic Republic of Iran, by paying $13,000 to an Egyptian terrorist, has allegedly tried to kill the Egyptian prime minister.

In the opinion of political observers, baseless charges leveled by Egypt against the Islamic Republic of Iran are not viewed as new development. It is not for the first time that political and propaganda circles have sought, by making use of such a tactic and without presenting any acceptable reason and evidence, to distort Iran's political image in the region.

In fact, this attempt by leaders of the Egyptian regime, aimed at creating an atmosphere of distrust against Iran in the region in political terms, is a move which can supplement the U.S. policies in the area. This is the point that the Egyptian president and the politicians of that country have often clearly stressed during their meetings with the U.S. officials. The regional media affiliated to the West too have added fuel to the fire and have tried to project in the region an image of the Islamic Republic of Iran, which because of its opposition to the so-called Middle East peace plan is interfering in the internal affairs of the regional countries, including Egypt, and in certain instances, as the Egyptian president has said it, has even attempted to assassinate the prime minister of that country.

This is a fact that the Cairo leaders are fully aware of the weak points and the vulnerable foundation of the ruling system in Egypt; and the world people, who are daily witnessing the suppression of the opponents of the Egyptian regime by the state elements, are quite sensible to think about what is going on in that country. Therefore, it is not difficult to understand the motive of the Egyptian regime in deviating the public opinion and linking the country's critical situation to beyond the Egyptian borders.

This should, however, be reminded [as heard] that the Islamic Republic of Iran considers it very essential to counter this propaganda firmly, since it is considered as a kind of political assassination committed against a country on the international and regional scene. Therefore, the Islamic Republic of Iran will never allow the use of various tactics for destroying the climate of confidence towards the Islamic Republic of Iran in the region and not allow the use of these tactics as a tool to further the common design of the Egyptian regime and the U.S. in the region.

Speaker Urges Islamic World To 'Rise Up'

LD0903164894 Tehran IRNA in English 1558 GMT 9 Mar 94

[Text] Tehran, March 9, IRNA—Majles Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri said on Wednesday that the whole world of Islam is concerned about the question of Palestine and called on Muslim states to rise up to salavage Qods.

Speaking in the open session of the Majles, he said the problem of Palestine was not a merely Palestinian question but rather "an ideological issue for the whole Islamic ummah".

He called on world Muslims to actively take part in the Qods day rally which is staged worldwide on the last

Friday of the fasting month of Ramadan. "Our message to other Muslims and other Islamic states is that they should take to the streets and express their indignation against the recent crime of the Zionist regime at the Ibrahim (peace be upon him) mosque in the town of Hebron".

Referring to the crime of Zionists against a group of Palestinian worshippers, he said the event must have cleared it for world Muslims that if they took a step back, the occupiers would be encouraged to continue their crimes.

The Gaza-Jericho accord made Israel so impudent that it embarked on letting the blood of the children of Islam in the fasting month of Ramadan.

"The fact that we can not come to terms with the United States today is that the U.S. as the ring leader of the hegemonic powers has the same nature that the Zionsits have," the speaker remakred.

The United Nations and the Security Council and the so-called advocates of human rights who interfere in the internal affirs of other countries under any pretexts, have kept silent on the massacre of Palestinians in al-Khalil, he regretted.

He said that without a unified and all-out movement on the part of world Muslims the "cancerous tumor" (Israel) cannot be removed from the heart of Palestine. The Muslim people of Palestine should get rid of the Zionists, he stressed.

Velayati, Afghanistan's Gaylani Meet, Discuss Events

LD0903173394 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 9 Mar 94

[Text] Mr. Pir Sayyed Ahmad Gaylani, the leader of the Mahaz-e Meli-ye Eslami-ye [National Islamic Front] of Afghanistan, met Foreign Affairs Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati this afternoon. He announced his party's stance on the civil war in Kabul and described the situation in Afghanistan as critical.

Mr. Gaylani also thanked the Islamic Republic of Iran for its efforts toward ending the war and establishing peace and stability in Afghanistan and the dispatch of humanitarian aid to the Muslim people of Afghanistan.

Mr. Velayati expressed concern about the situation in Afghanistan and said: The Islamic Republic of Iran will not spare any assistance that will bring peace and tranquillity to Afghanistan and end the clashes and war in that country.

Tajikistan Opposition Leader, Official Comment on Talks

NC1003081594 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 10 Mar 94

[Text] This week talks were held between the Tajik opposition and the Russian deputy foreign minister in Tehran. The talks, which were initiated by the Islamic Republic of Iran, had significant outcomes for the solution of the Tajikistan crisis. To inform you of the views of the Tajikistan opposition, the following are remarks by Akbar Turjanzadeh, head of the Tajik opposition delegation to the talks, from an interview with our correspondent:

[Begin Turjanzadeh recording, in Tajik] The outcome of our talks was good because the basic preconditions we had set before holding any talks with the regime in Dushanbe were met and we held a meeting with a high-ranking Russian envoy, Anatoliy Adamishin, in Tehran.

Our basic preconditions for holding talks in Moscow were that the full security of the participants in the talks be ensured and that observers and mediators from Iran, Russia, Pakistan, and Afghanistan be present. Russia did not formally accept this precondition. But after two days of talks, Russia accepted this precondition.

In the talks that will be held in Moscow and then in Tehran or other countries, we will discuss topics; the most important ones are the creation of an interim government council consisting of neutral personalities who did not participate in this fratricide, the complete disarmament of both sides, and the holding of free elections two years after the establishment of tranquility and stability in Tajikistan with the participation of various parties. [end recording]

As far as efforts by the Islamic Republic of Iran in solving the Tajikistan crisis, Morteza Bank, director general of the East European Affairs Department of the Foreign Ministry, said:

[Begin Bank recording] Various steps have been taken by the Islamic Republic of Iran within this period. The most important step was coordination and cooperation with the United Nations and representatives of the UN secretary general, with whom we held very good talks during their two visits to Tehran. Also, our diplomatic mission in Tajikistan was extremely active in this issue and was able to inform the UN representative of the situation inside Tajikistan.

Another effort was our continuous contacts with important regional countries, namely Russia, including the visit by the Russian foreign minister to Tehran, the two visits by the special envoy of the Russian president to Tehran, and the visit by the Russian deputy foreign minister to Tehran. We held extremely good and detailed talks with these officials, who were briefed on the views of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

We also had continuous contacts with the Tajik Government, met with Tajik officials—the president and the foreign minister—in various sessions, such as the Economic Cooperation Organization [ECO] session in Istanbul and the ECO session in Tehran, and discussed various viewpoints. And finally, a strong contact was established with the opposition—both the national faction and especially the Islamic faction. [end recording]

Official Cited on Mediation of Kashmir Situation

NC1003073394 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 10 Mar 94

[Text] The recent crisis in Indian-Pakistani relations over the problem of Kashmir has died down with mediation by the Islamic Republic of Iran. Some weeks ago, Pakistan called for the issuance of a resolution on the violation of human rights by India in Kashmir. Our correspondent Hajiparvaneh, who is in Paris, interviewed our country's representative at the UN Human Rights Commission on this step by the Islamic Republic of Iran. Sirus Naseri said in relation to this:

[Begin recording] [Naseri] Many countries—Islamic and Western countries and, as far as we know, Britain, Australia, and others—tried to bring about an understanding between India and Pakistan in some way or another. But three or four days ago all of them gave up, concluding that there was no way out and that these two countries would move toward a confrontation, and decided to issue a resolution on Kashmir.

However, our diplomatic machinery not only did not give up but it increased its efforts. I should say that with the multifaceted efforts of our Foreign Ministry, directives issued by the president himself, the direct participation of our foreign minister, and the activities that we carried out in Islamabad and New Delhi, at the last moment we achieved something that all the members of the commission thought to be impossible—Iran was able to pave the way for reconciliation between the two countries on this issue within an extremely logical framework.

The result was, I think, also a victory for Pakistan and India because contrary to the tension that they were moving toward, tranquility has been suddenly established, which we hope can pave the way for the resumption of talks between the two countries on the resolution of their problems. This was a success for the Kashmiri Muslims because within this framework India allowed representatives of some Islamic countries to inspect the area to see the actual situation; if they observe that Muslims are in need of something or that human rights are being violated, they will discuss this with the Indian Government so that the situation will improve.

I think that this was an extremely significant issue for Iran because of the credibility it was able to gain by being able to complete an extremely difficult political task that all the others who are so boastful about their abilities were unable to do anything about and gave up. Probably an extremely outstanding outcome of this development is that everything worked contrary to the opinion of the Westerners, especially the United States, which very flagrantly announced a couple of days ago that the commission's attention should be focused on Iraq and especially Iran, and whose hostile policies toward Iran have been extremely obvious, especially during the past few years. And exactly on the same day that they exerted all their efforts to issue a resolution against us, Iran emerged as probably the most popular and most outstanding member of the commission.

[Hajiparvaneh] Our country's permanent ambassador at the European headquarters of the United Nations talked about the resolution on human rights in Iran, which the Commission issued under pressure by Western countries: The approval of such resolutions is customary and has assumed such a political nature that it is no longer attractive to anyone and is only a pretext for the West's propaganda against Iran. He added: More realistic countries are well aware of the depth of such actions and are aware of how hostility and spite by the West, especially the United States, are involved in such actions; out of the 52 members of the UN Human Rights Commission, 30 of them either abstained or voted against this resolution. [end recording]

Commentary Examines UN's Pursuance of 'Double Standards'

LD0903130594 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1100 GMT 9 Mar 94

[Excerpt] The Human Rights Commission [HRC] rapporteur on Iran, Reynaldo Galindo Pohl, by issuing his report on our country's human rights record, once again proved that the UN pursues a policy of double standards and exploits the human rights issue as a political lever.

From time to time Mr. Galindo Pohl releases a report on the human rights records in Iran to conclude a phase of his mission. However, his mission is to keep alive the issue of human rights violations in Iran by resorting to every possible means. For this purpose he compiles the false and biased reports of the Western press, affiliated to international Zionism, and presents them to the HRC as a report.

Throughout his life Galindo Pohl has witnessed blatant and gross violation of human rights by U.S. imperialism and its local agents in his country, Central America. Nevertheless, he refers to the fatwa of killing Salman Rushdie, the apostate author of the book *The Satanic Verses* as violation of human rights. He mistakes freedom of speech with freedom to offend and violate sanctities.

Galindo Pohl is alway touring Europe. He should therefore know better: If anyone, in whatever status, were to attribute something to a Jewish personality or comment on a historical issue that does not please the Jews, they

would raise their hue and cry. For instance, some time ago a member of France's National Front, who fought Hitler's occupation forces and lost an eye in a battle, said: The German gas chambers were only a minor part of the history of World War II. The Jews dragged him to a court on charges of undermining Jewish suffering, and obtained a verdict against him. Now Mr. Galindo Pohl ignores insults against the Prophet of a religion representing more than one fifth of the world population.

In reality, if any organization or state were to be condemned for violating human rights, the United States and the Security Council should be condemned. Since Friday the sixth of Esfand [25 February], when dozens of worshipers were massacred in the holy shrine of Ibrahim in Hebron, the Security Council has not yet made any decision to issue a resolution condemning the Israeli regime. Even if such a resolution were to be passed, it would be a waste of ink and paper as it would fail to achieve anything. So far the HRC has only expressed regret on the matter, and the U.S. Government's only concern has been the peace talks. [passage omitted]

Majles Passes State Budget Bill

LD0903165494 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 9 Mar 94

[Text] After nearly 100 hours of debate in the Majles open sessions on the state budget bill for 1373 [year beginning 21 March 1994], the second reading of the bill was completed and the bill was referred to the Guardian Council for review.

According to a report by a Central News Unit correspondent, on the basis of the articles and notes appended to next year's state budget bill—approved in today's open session—50 billion rials will be put at the disposal of the fund for interest-free loans for supporting employment opportunities, to be spent on creating new job opportunities and maintaining existing employment throughout the country.

Also all public and private establishments are to obtain a certificate of the nonexistence of domestic production and domestic know how from the Nuclear Energy Organization prior to any purchase from abroad of radiation materials [mavvad-e partowza] or equipment dealing in any way with ionizing or non-ionizing radiation.

According to a Majles decision today, ministries, public organs, establishments, and companies are empowered to pay a maximum of 40,000 rials per day as mission allowance to those sent on foreign missions providing the travel expenses incurred are not personal. [sentence as heard] Any other payments, or the receipt of any other payments, whether in rials or foreign currency, is forbidden and shall be construed as illegal appropriation of public assets.

Our correspondent adds: The 1373 budget bill was presented to the Majles on 21 December 1993 and since then it has been under review by various Majles commissions, especially the Plan and Budget Commission. The bill was debated and approved in Majles open sessions in two stages: first the section on income and then the expenditure section.

The Majles is to hold an open session on the morning of 12 March to discuss the Guardian Council's views on the 1373 state budget bill.

Germany Envoy, Finance Minister Discuss Expansion of Ties

LD0903200194 Tehran IRNA in English 1930 GMT 9 Mar 94

[Text] Tehran, March 9, IRNA—Finance Minister Morteza Mohammad-Khani and German Ambassador to Tehran Reinhold Schenk here today emphasized the need for expansion of mutual cooperation in the areas of trade, joint ventures and transfer of technology.

Mohammad-Khani elaborating on the payment of the Iranian debts to Germany said Iran is interested to use technical assistance of the friendly countries including Germany.

He also expressed hope that Germany would purchase a higher volume of the Iranian non-oil commodities.

Schenk in reply said his country is also keen to expand its political, economic and cultural ties with Iran.

Establishment of a German language training center which would be affiliated to the Irano-German Chamber of Commerce, would pave the way for the expansion of cultural and trade relations between the two countries, he added.

Pakistan

Minister Views Postponement of Vote on Kashmir

BK0903144094 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 9 Mar 94

[Text] Voting on resolution on human rights violations in Kashmir in the UN Human Rights Commission has been postponed by three hours on the request of China and Iran. This was stated by the foreign minister, Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali, during a news conference in Islamabad a short while ago. The foreign minister said China and Iran have requested Pakistan at the highest level not to press for voting on the resolution. He said they are our great friends, and we have to give due consideration to their proposals. The commission is still in session, and a decision to the Chinese and Iranian proposal will be taken after consultation. He said the objective of the resolution has been achieved to a great extent as Kashmir has become a front-line issue, and the world community has stressed on India to improve the human rights situation in Kashmir. He said although most of the countries have decided to abstain, almost all of them have deplored the human rights violations in Kashmir

on the floor. The foreign minister said this is the first time during last 29 years that Pakistan has crossed the barriers and has put a resolution on Kashmir on the agenda of a world forum.

Speaking on the occasion, the information minister, Mr. Khalid Ahmad Khan Kharal, said the purpose of this resolution was to send fact-finding missions to Kashmir to review the human rights conditions. This purpose has been achieved as India has opened Kashmir. One mission had already visited, and another 11-member mission is still in occupied Kashmir. He said naturally if this resolution would have been carried, there would not have been any change in the ground realities in occupied valley. The very fact that fact-finding missions are visiting India proves that we have made substantial gains. The world community, he added, which had forgotten the plight of Kashmiris in the occupied valley is now fully alive of the situation and the matter is on their agenda. Almost every world capital has sent a strong signal of its displeasure to the Indian Government for the human rights violations in occupied Kashmir.

More on Foreign Minister's Comments

BK1003031494 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 10 Mar 94

[Text] At the UN Human Rights Commission in Geneva, Pakistan has deferred voting on its resolution condemning human rights violations in occupied Kashmir for one year, while India has expressed willingness to allow a fact-finding team of Muslim ambassadors to visit occupied Kashmir. A three-point package has been worked out after high-level contacts among Pakistan, Iran, and China. Sixteen countries supported the formula.

Iranian former envoy in Geneva, Naseri, pledged to continue to pressure India to alleviate the hardships of Kashmiris and improve the human rights situation. Other countries supporting the package are Syria, Indonesia, Malaysia, Tunis, Australia, Guinea Bissau, Libya, Colombia, Malawi, Mexico, Brazil, Costa Rica, Nigeria and Mauritania.

The foreign minister told newsmen in Islamabad that Pakistan has achieved its objective to awaken world opinion about the plight of the Kashmiri people. He said despite the deferment of the resolution, the Kashmir issue will be raised at other world forums. Sardar Asif Ali described the package as a success of Pakistan's diplomacy. He said we have not agreed to an offer by some countries to delete a paragraph in the resolution about sending a fact-finding mission to occupied Kashmir. He said almost all member countries at the commission expressed concern on the grave human rights violations by Indian troops in occupied Kashmir.

Khalid Ahmad Khan Kharal, federal minister for information and broadcasting, who was present on the occasion, recalled U.S. President Clinton's statement deploring human rights abuses in Kashmir. He said the European countries have also deplored the worsening situation in occupied Kashmir. This reflects an achievement of our foreign policy, the minister added. The information minister said no government in the past moved such a resolution.

Iqbal Akhund, Pakistan's ambassador to the United Nations, told a news conference that Pakistan has succeeded in pressuring India to an extent that it has gone on the defensive on the Kashmir issue. He hoped that India will respond positively to demands made by Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto in her address to the UN Human Rights Commission last month. The demands include the freedom of human rights agencies and international media representatives to visit occupied Kashmir without any hindrances, freeing of the jailed Kashmiris, revocation of inhumane rights given to Indian security forces, and the reduction of troops in the held-valley.

Interior Minister Alleges 'Joint' RAW-Khad Liaison

BK0903124894 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 9 Mar 94 p 12

[Text] Islamabad, March 8: Pakistan has been the target of Indian intelligence agency, RAW, in collusion with the Afghan intelligence agency, Khad.

This was stated by the Federal Minister for Interior, Lt Gen (Retd) Naseerllah Babar. He said there was a link between the RAW and Khad which seem to jointly undertake terrorist operations against Pakistan.

He was responding to a question from this correspondent on the possibilities of the involvement of the Israeli agency Mossad operating in Afghanistan.

The Minister said since most of the former communists trained by KGB, the Russian intelligence agency, had now shifted to India, there was a strong possibility that the Indian and Afghan Intelligence agencies were cooperating.

The Minister said Mossad operating in Afghanistan was a bit too far-fetched an idea." To another question the Minister said the government has put the suspected Afghans living in Peshawar under surveillance. He agreed that most of the former communists who have acquired residence in Peshawar were trained by the KGB.

The government, he said, had so far not received reports on the hijacking of the school bus from the intelligence agencies. However, he said that during his recent visit to Peshawar he was told about the antecedents of one of the hijackers who he said belonged to Khad. He said his photo was shown to him with other Khad agents. This hijacker he said belonged to Parwan province in Afghanistan.

The government the Minister said was not trying to jump to any conclusion on the hijacking incidence and wanted to give full time to the agencies to investigate.

Indian Forces Fire Across Control Line; 1 Killed

BK1003104894 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1000 GMT 10 Mar 94

[Text] In Azad Kashmir, one woman was killed and two young men were seriously wounded as a result of shooting by Indian forces from across the Line of Control. According to reports, Indian forces started firing indiscriminately without provocation at Chhatri village of Kot Katahra Sector at 1400 on 9 March. Two bullets hit the woman in the stomach, killing her on the spot. In two separate incidents, Indian forces fired at Baiwal village of Nakial Sector and Jagal village of Kot Katahra Sector, seriously wounding two young men.

Editorial Views Iranian Proposal for Regional Alliance

BK0903143394 Rawalpindi NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu 8 Mar 94 p 4

[Editorial: "The Iranian Proposal of a New Regional Alliance and What Realism Demands"]

[Text] Iran has proposed to the visiting Indian and Chinese foreign ministers that a bloc be formed consisting of PRC, India, Iran, and Pakistan to eradicate the external influence from the region. These countries have resources which, if they were pooled, would enable them to check the interference of the great powers. For the moment, the Iranian proposal can be considered merely a desire which is formally expressed on such occasions, because Iran is well aware that the components of such an alliance are antagonistic and hostile to each other. China and India had a military confrontation during the 1960's, and subsequently their relations remained strained for a long time. It was rather like a cold war between them. Of course, they now have concluded an agreement to promote friendship. The problems that were once created by Tibet's Dalai Lama have also subsided and the border dispute has been resolved to a certain extent. As a result, India has decided to withdraw two divisions of troops from along the frontiers with China and to deploy them in Punjab and Kashmir. At the international level, however, the two countries are still contending with each other to establish regional influence and superiority. India, in particular, is badly gripped by this fever.

Similarly, Pakistan and India have a long history of disputes, spanning about 1,200 years. India has repeatedly targeted Pakistan for its military aggression to avenge the 1,000-year Muslim rule over India. In 1971, the Indian military intervention in East Pakistan resulted in Pakistan's dismemberment. Now, the Indian troops are engaged in the massacre of Muslims in occupied Kashmir. Moreover, India is also threatening Pakistan with a limited war. For obvious reasons, how can the two hostile countries join hands on some regional interests? The Government of Iran is fully aware of these stark realities, and that is why Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani has urged India to strive to resolve the Kashmir issue peacefully. Iran is fully conversant with the gravity of the Kashmir problem. It is said that Ayatollah Khomeyni, the founder and leader of the modern Islamic revolution, was of Kashmiri origin.

It has been Iran's official stand that extending support to the independence struggle of subjugated nations is not an abetment of terrorism; it is like extending a helping hand to realize the right to self-determination. Iran has always rejected the U.S. and Western objections in this regard, and never accepted the U.S. and European interpretations of the human rights. In the words of the TEHRAN TIMES editor, the United States has used the human rights issue as a political weapon against the entire world including China, Pakistan and Iran.

In view of these facts, the Iranian proposal to form a regional bloc cannot be termed concrete or serious, nor should Pakistan be concerned about it. In fact, if there can be a new alliance or bloc, then it should include Pakistan, Iran, Afghanistan, the Islamic countries of Central Asia, and Turkey. That will be a natural alliance. These countries not only have the commonality of religion among them, they have ancient historical and cultural ties as well. An alliance comprising Iran, India and China would be lacking natural ingredients. Rather, they lack anything in common. The Muslim countries, having common religious, historical, cultural and economic values and interests, should join in a single platform and form a regional bloc. If China can be included in the present (?alliance), then there is no reason why U.S. hegemony in the world could not be resisted.

The history of cooperation and friendship between Pakistan and China is enviable. The PRC has now offered to cooperate liberally with Pakistan to meet its weaponry needs. Pakistani tanks and missiles are also being manufactured in China. China did not even care for the U.S. pressure in this regard. No one will object to China's inclusion in the alliance of Muslim countries as China has not been seen to carry out aggression against any neighboring country, nor has it claimed the territory of any of its neighbors. It is hoped that the Iranian Government will adopt a realistic approach regarding the formation of a regional bloc.